EBONY

HOW GANGSTERS TOOK OVER THE BAND BUSINESS
By Earl 'Fatha' Hines

Y ROBINSON
AND WIFE

GALLERY OF NEGRO BOXING CHAMPS

September 1949 30c

NOAH WEBSTER (1758-1843). This American teacher, writer and lawyer compiled the first true dictionary of the English language as spoken in the New World. Nineteen years in the making, the first edition contained 12,000 words and nearly 40,000 definitions not hitherto published.

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AND SEAGRAM's unique process, that adds extra patience in the making, is the first basic improvement in gin making in over 300 years. Result: a NATURALLY golden, NATURALLY smoother gin. First a look, then a sip, will show you what we mean.

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Naturally DRYEST

Distilled from American Grain. 90 Proof. Seagram-Distillers Corporation, New Yor

LUCKIES PAY MORE

to give you a finer cigarette!

Yes, at tobacco auctions Lucky Strike pays millions of dollars more than official parity prices for fine tobacco!

There's no finer cigarette in the world today than Lucky Strike! To bring you this finer cigarette, the makers of Lucky Strike go after fine, light, naturally mild tobacco—*and pay millions of dollars more than official parity prices to get it!* So buy a carton of Luckies today. See for yourself how much finer and smoother Luckies really are—how much *more* real deep-down smoking enjoyment they give you. Yes, smoke a Lucky! You'll agree it's a finer, milder, more enjoyable cigarette!

DAN CURRIN, *independent warehouse operator of Oxford, N. C., has smoked Luckies for 20 years. He says: "To me, Luckies taste better. I've seen the makers of Luckies buy fine, prime tobacco, you know!" Here's more evidence that Luckies are a finer cigarette!*

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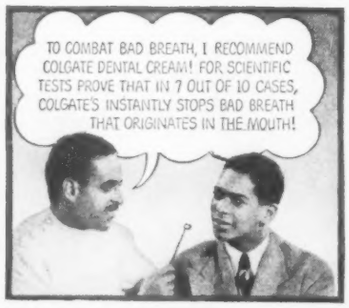
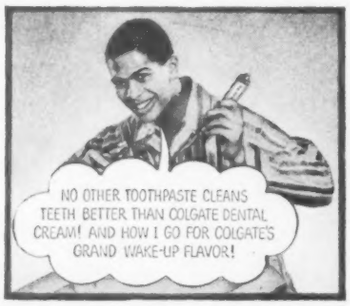
So round, so firm, so fully packed—so free and easy on the draw

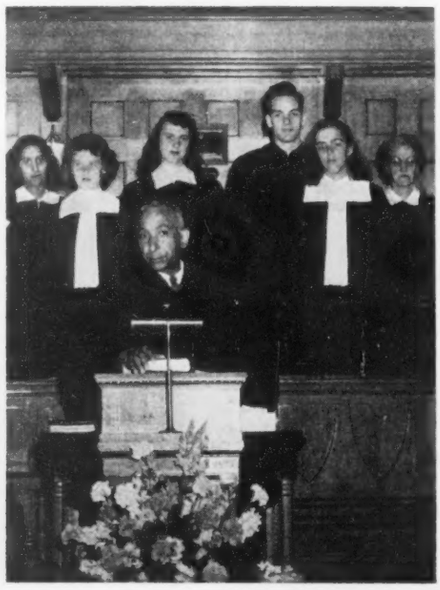
He Needs a Man-to-Man Talk!





Always use
COLGATE DENTAL CREAM
after you eat
and before every date

SPEAKING OF



MINISTER OF WHITE CHURCH

Rev. Roland Heacock f more than a year w minister of the all-whi First Congregation Church in Staffer Springs, Conn., after t ing the pulpit one Su day morning in 1948. Th white congregation w so impressed they ask him to stay permanent When fire destroyed h home, townspeople rais a fund of $3100 for new one. Recently h quit his post because failing sight.

COAL SCULPTOR

Edgar Patience is in the coal ornament business in West Pittston, Pa. He carves everything from ash trays to busts of George Washington out of anthracite, sells and displays his art in retail stores and at fairs. The bust (right) is a 120-pound lump, wore out two knives in the making. Patience inherited art from his father, who once made a coal necklace for screen vamp Theda Bara.

WISH WOMAN

Rev. Mother M. Shannon for 22 years has been observing the Italian custom of a St. Joseph Feast, making an altar of $1,000 worth of food, blessing it and giving it to needy in New Orleans. Hundreds of whites and Negroes come to feast to make wish, get piece of bread and lucky bean. Wishes are left in envelopes which Mother Shannon burns. Wishes are then supposed to come true.

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OF PEOPLE

DUCK WHISTLER

Albert Thomas founded a popular wild fowl refuge in the heart of Oakland, Calif., 38 years ago when he began whistling wild ducks to earth at Lakeside Park. Using a simple postman's whistle, the Alabama-born gardener attracted the ducks and fed them until the city took over the job. Today the flock has grown to thousands in the sanctuary in the heart of the state's third largest city.

ONLY DENTIST IN TOWN

Dr. Fleming H. Norris is the only dentist in the town of East Paterson, N. J. (pop. 12,000). He picked the town for his practice prior to the 1929 stock market crash after graduating from Howard, has had a virtually all-white practice of 35 to 40 patients daily for years. He also is dentist in the town's public schools and was vice-president of the board of health. There are only two Negro families in town.

ZOO KEEPER

Jim Poindexter has been caretaker at the Wichita, Kansas, zoo for 27 years. Now 75 the ex-Kentucky farmer is a standby at the zoo where he has seen most of the animals grow up. Most know and trust him. Once a lion escaped from his cage and Poindexter got him back by a simple command. Only animal he admits to being scared of are wolves which are no longer kept in Wichita zoo.

Add meat to lunch with—

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For a luscious lunch or so-easy supper just whip out your favorite scalloped corn recipe . . . then add the sausage ring illustrated for the last 10 minutes of baking time, (400° F. oven).

Yes, Vienna Sausage Casserole changes a side dish into a main dish slick 'n' quick! Puts punch in lunch . . . gives your family the health-giving meat proteins they need.

Remember—all Armour Pantry-Shelf Meals are quick 'n' easy to fix, and *kind* to your meat budget. Bring home a few tins of various kinds today!

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LETTERS AND PICTURES

LOVE VERSUS RACE BIAS

Recently I purchased my first copy of EBONY and noted an article that was particularly appropriate entitled "Do Negroes Hate Themselves?" I was intensely interested in this article as I have often thought that it will be impossible for Negroes to conquer prejudices until they themselves stop being prejudiced and segregating themselves. I know whereof I speak as I have been very deeply in love with one of the most charming Negro girls it has been my privilege to meet. Charming, beautiful, intelligent, cultured and educated. I have been in love with her for over three years and because of her inherent fear of "what people would say" (she means other Negroes, mind you, since she has no fear of white people), she will not marry me.

For all this time I have attempted to show her how little the thoughts of others mean to me—how stupid our present way of life is. Ours is not an affair. We are two college bred people. I have a responsible position with a reputable firm; she has received publicity all over the country for the position she occupies in her work. She has a position and is the only Negro girl occupying this type of job—she has held this position for seven years, recently resigned and acquired a similar position with another organization. Her friends are my friends, we give parties, go on vacations, outings, shows, or just have quiet evenings with books and music. However, the joker of this all is that she has no hesitancy in doing all of this with my friends, and her friends (those that are white) but never, never will she permit me to call at her home and visit with her Negro friends. Her chief fear is "Oh, you don't understand; they would misconstrue everything." My friends accept her for what she is, an intelligent, beautiful girl with the right type of personality and one whom they are glad to have as a friend, and introduce her as a friend. Her co-workers admire and love her, in fact it is always worshipful adoration by both male and female. To them she is not a Negro, but just a person we love and admire. This she accepts wholeheartedly and as her due. However, she fears the comments of her own race, and thus it seems that I am doomed to a life of loneliness because of the prejudice of her own race. "Do Negroes Hate Themselves?" I believe they do. Frankly, I think we as a race are less prejudiced against the Negroes than the Negroes themselves.

HENRY HAIFNER

St. Louis, Mo.

FATHER DIVINE

The earth knows and I know that this "Father Divine" is not God. Amelia C. Lamb does this magazine a great wrong by calling it a lie. You are the

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LETTERS *Continued*

person who lies, not EBONY Magazine.

This Father Divine is nothing but a man, but far less the man that God would have him be. You say EBONY called him a Negro. Well, if he isn't a Negro, he is dark anyway and he surely isn't God.

HERBERT LEE JOHNSON
Okmulgee, Okla.

I don't know whether any reply is ever made in EBONY to the letters printed but I must say that the one about Father Divine in your July issue was one in need of reply. And this is most assuredly to Amelia Lamb of Washington, D. C.

I was under the impression that we as a race were progressing nicely until I read that item of a religious fanatic on Father Divine. I must say that it is quite the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard.

The Bible says there is one Lord, one Faith and one Baptism and believe me, Father Divine isn't it.

DELOIS BROOME
Phoenix, Ariz.

I couldn't resist the temptation of challenging one Amelia C. Lamb on the strong statements made in her letter appearing in the July issue.

This woman made references to an article appearing in a previous issue of EBONY regarding Father Divine. In her defense of Father Divine, she bestowed upon the little *man* the exalted title of God Almighty.

Amelia stated that he, Father Divine, was *not* a man; that he could do what no man can. I would like to see him take spit and a bit of mud, rub it upon the eyes of the blind child next door to me and give her sight.

What fanaticism! It couldn't be just ignorance, because the letter gave evidence of an educated person. But if schooling doesn't insure one against such devastatingly misplaced idolatry, I am no longer ashamed of my fourth grade education. If other than his followers were weak to the point of believing he is God, they would now be cured of religion forever. (No offense meant to Father Divine as a *man*). But as for the letter-writing Amelia, the English language doesn't have sufficient adjectives for me to express my contempt.

Then, not stating whether she is colored or white, this woman glorifies interracial marriage. My brother, an ex-G.I., has a white wife. I am a mixture of Dutch, Negro and Cherokee Indian but I am neither for nor against these marriages. The way I see it, the couple involved should be the ones concerned. These things should not be turned into a national affair. After 22 years of marriage to a Negro, I still don't wish he had been white.

ANNA LOU MILES LOUNDS
Madisonville, O.

BILLIE HOLIDAY

Congrats on your moving article à la Holiday. Holiday has not only always captured my imagination as a singer but as a person. I have always admired her artist's soul and the stirring music it produced. If this great depth of feeling and capacity for sincere emotion, caught in the warp of "civiliza-

Continued on Next Page

← IN THE EAST

HELLMANN'S
Real Mayonnaise
IN THE WEST →
BEST FOODS
AMERICA'S LARGEST-SELLING MAYONNAISE

Pitcher's Nightmare

New power in Cleveland Indians' batting attack furnished by young outfielder Larry Doby. Brilliant future for 24-year-old slugger seen by Mgr. Lou Boudreau (at left). Doby's prize "rookie" year featured 14 homers—.301 plate average!

And—Larry Doby is a Wheaties man! "A swell year around training dish—milk, fruit and Wheaties," says Larry. "I'd recommend it to any young athlete." Boudreau (Wheaties eater over 10 years himself) agrees. Nourishing—these 100% whole wheat flakes. Second-helping good, too! Had *your* Wheaties today?

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FULL SATISFACTION OR MONEY BACK!

LETTERS *Continued*

tion" was partly responsible for her slight departure from the norm, I will certainly be the last to censure.

Her conduct in this hectic period of her life, as described in her account of it in your excellent magazine, has certainly been exemplary and far above the shameful, stupid behavior of a certain screen idol of recent notoriety. Yet she is hounded and he is not. Can there be any question as to why she should not have the same courtesy shown to her?

JOHN RICE ADAMS

Indianapolis, Ind.

I have just completed reading your magazine from cover to cover and I have quite a few things on my chest regarding Miss Holiday's article.

First, I think it's swell; also human. Second: I think it is horrible the way she's been treated and I can imagine what a tough time she's had. I think it is wonderful that she wrote the article for it gives the public a greater understanding of her (at least it did me.) While reading of the rotten things she's been going through, one question came uppermost in my mind and that was: Did the agents bother a certain drummer bandleader after he was released, or do they just limit their nastiness to Negroes? If a musician such as Billie is kept permanently from the music world (and the thing she loves most), it won't be anyone's fault but the public's for believing the trash they hear from envious and malicious lips.

JUANITA STONEHAM

Los Angeles, Calif.

DO CATHOLICS DISCRIMINATE?

In a recent issue of EBONY, I had the heart-breaking experience of reading that Negro Catholics are being denied the privilege of worshipping with their white brothers (possibly by some parish priests of little authority) in whatever Catholic Church they see fit—on the sole basis of their color and race!

Personally, I doubt that the Papal Representative of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States has been informed of these unChristian attitudes on the part of these particular priests.

Please do not hold the Catholic Church responsible for the practices extended by a few, any more than you would hold Her responsible for the burning of Sainte Jeanne D'Arc. I know, personally, that the ministers of some Protestant Churches do not care to have Negroes in their congregations and would politely demand that they worship elsewhere; but the Holy Roman Catholic Church would not and does not tolerate this attitude.

WALTER SENATE SMITH
University of Montana

Missoula, Mont.

I am enclosing a photostatic copy of a letter I received from the Chancery Office in Washington, D. C.

The letter is, I believe, self-explanatory.

I sincerely hope that you may see fit to use this letter to relieve the doubt in the minds of many new converts concerning the sincerity of the Catholic Church and also set right those others

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"IT BREATHES AS IT FEEDS"

LETTERS *Continued*

who read and believed the article which appeared in your recent issue and did not question it as I did.

CONSTANCE C. NICHOLS

Columbus, O.

In reply to your letter concerning a very misleading article in EBONY Magazine, I should like to submit the following information.

The Catholic Churches in the Archdiocese of Washington are open for prayer and worship to all persons, regardless of race or nationality. On a recent occasion, in reply to a charge that the Catholic Churches in Washington excluded colored people, His Excellency, the Most Reverend Archbishop, stated, "The doors of every Catholic Church in Washington are wide open to all who wish to come in and pray and to worship God."

It is true that after the Civil War, at the request of the colored Catholics in Washington, a parish, named in honor of St. Augustine, was erected particularly but not exclusively for their use. It may interest you to know that the funds for the erection of this parish were secured partly from the proceeds of a lawn fete held on the White House lawn with the permission of President Lincoln. The permission for the erection of this parish was intended as a gesture of friendliness and confidence in the colored Catholics and was appreciatively accepted by them as such.

From the very inception of St. Augustine's Parish, many white Catholics attended it and were welcomed by the colored Catholics. Through the course of its long and fruitful history, St. Augustine's Parish has been particularly distinguished by the spirit of charitable cooperation engendered among members of the white and colored races. In the course of time, other parishes were erected in Washington for the use of the colored Catholics who were not thereby excluded from attending any Catholic Churches used mainly by white Catholics. At present, Catholic persons of the colored race, in varying numbers, attend practically every church in the Archdiocese, and conversely, white Catholics attend practically every church in the Archdiocese erected primarily for the use of the colored.

The falsity of the charge that St. Paul's Church has a policy of excluding Catholics of the colored race is evident from the fact that the members of the Catholic Interracial Conference attended Mass in that church on May 29.

REVEREND PHILIP M. HANNAN
Vice Chancellor
Archdiocese of Washington

Washington, D. C.

I read in the May issue of EBONY an article concerning segregation in the Catholic Church in Washington. A friend who has lived in Washington said this was not true. Will you please verify what church this is?

As this friend is white and seems to feel that lots of new items concerning segregation are untrue, I am hoping you will give all information.

JOE E. JOHNSON

San Diego, Calif.

● *ED. The facts stated in the story on "Segregation in Washington" in the May issue of EBONY are correct. An*

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Author of "A DATE WITH A DISH" and famous Food Editor of EBONY

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Macaroni-Cheese Loaf
WITH CREAMED PEAS
VELVET-BLENDED WITH CARNATION MILK

1¾ cup elbow macaroni
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¼ cup diced pimiento
⅓ pound sharp processed cheese, grated
⅓ teaspoon Worcestershire
1 teaspoon salt
⅛ teaspoon white pepper
3 eggs, beaten slightly

Cook macaroni in boiling salted water until tender (about 10 minutes); drain. Heat Carnation Milk, pimiento, cheese and seasonings over hot water, stirring until smooth. Add to macaroni. Stir in eggs and pour into buttered 8½-inch loaf pan. Bake in pan of hot water in moderate oven (325° F.) 30 to 35 minutes. Remove from oven and let stand in pan of hot water 5 minutes longer. Turn out on platter. Top with creamed peas. (Serves 6.)

CREAMED PEAS

1 No. 2 can peas (save liquid), or 1 package frozen peas or 2 lbs. fresh peas, cooked.
⅓ cup liquid drained from peas
2 tablespoons butter
3 tablespoons flour
⅓ teaspoon salt
⅔ cup Carnation Milk

Drain peas. Melt butter in small saucepan. Add flour and salt. Blend. Add Carnation Milk, stir until smooth. Add liquid and cook until mixture thickens. Stir in peas. When heated pour over macaroni loaf.

SEND FOR the Carnation "Velvet Blend Book" of new money-saving dishes. Carnation Co., Dept. E-99, Los Angeles 36, California.

"from Contented Cows"

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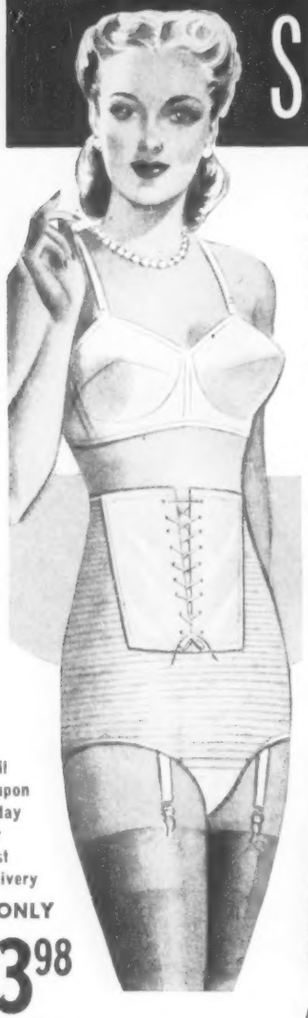

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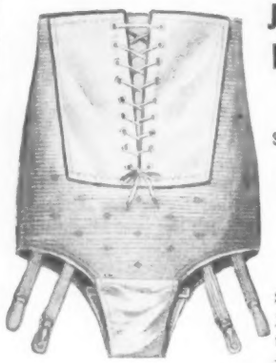

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LETTERS Continued

EBONY editor, gathering material for this story, entered St. Paul's Church, interior pictures of which were included in the story. He was promptly directed by an usher to a vacant seat on one of the last three rows of the church. When he asked to be seated further front, he was told there were no seats there. White persons entering later were seated in seats well up front. When he inquired of the church's chief usher what its policy was on seating Negroes, he was told that about 100 Negroes attend Mass at St. Paul's each Sunday though they are tactfully encouraged to attend St. Augustine's, just down the street, which is "their church." Asked directly whether a Negro Catholic could sit anywhere in the church, the church officer replied, "Absolutely not. They sit only in the last eight rows." With the exception of St. Matthew's Cathedral, where there is no Jim Crow section for Negroes, no other so-called white Catholic church in Washington permits Negroes to sit where they please. Many a Negro Washingtonian entering a "white" Catholic church has been gently told he should attend services at St. Augustine's.

APOLLO PRIZE WINNER

The information in the caption under my picture in the story on the Apollo Theatre in your July issue is incorrect. The caption stated: "Grayce Steele won $5 third prize." I did not win $5 third prize; I won $10 second prize. My name is Gray Steel.

GRAY STEEL

Brooklyn, N. Y.

BROWN BABIES

I am the person referred to in the March issue of EBONY in connection with Baby Lauretta. (British Families Adopt Brown Babies.) As you already know the story of this child, there is no need to further mention.

I do trust that the article was of value in helping to fight the "colour bar" in the United States, which fortunately is not of great significance in this country, at least amongst the ordinary people. You can rest assured that we common people of this little isle are a warm-hearted race of folks, not leaning to boastfulness. We have had it rough for many years now and still do. Nonetheless, we are proud world citizens and do like to give our hand to help others.

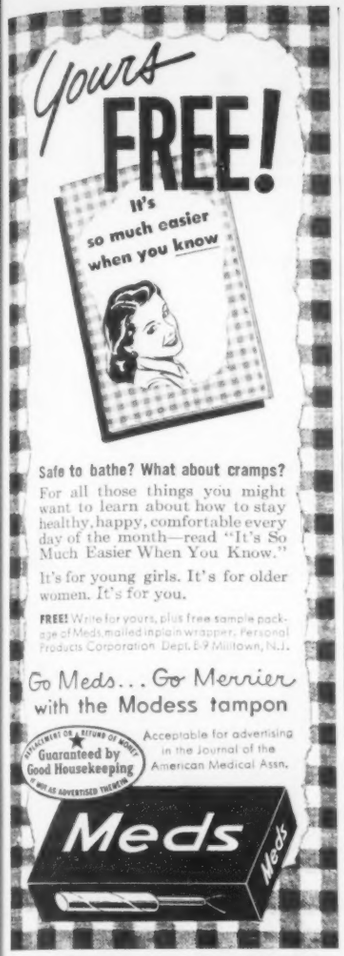
J. JOHNSTONE & FAMILY

Middlesex, England

While reading EBONY, I ran across the article "Brown Babies" and found it very interesting.

I would like to say to Mrs. Wilkes who wrote a letter in which she wondered if these children adopted by English whites will become slaves in later years that I can't predict the future, but I can give you a little idea about the present. These brown babies here in Germany are admired and are living better than both colored and white babies in the United States.

She also wondered what she could do to help them. Well, go to your Red Cross and tell them you would like to help the children of Europe and I



LETTERS *Continued*

assure you they will tell you how to go about it.

PVT. GEORGE PARKER, JR.
Frankfort, Germany.

EYE BANK

We are pleased at the mention of our work with the Alabama Sight Conservation Eye Clinic in your current article. But why the slant that it is unusual for health agencies in the South not to discriminate against Negroes?

For example, at our Medical College Clinic we see without charge over 100,000 patients a year, and at least 50 per cent of these are Negroes. The Cancer group makes no distinction, the Crippled Children's Clinic makes no distinction, and so on.

No one realizes better than we that many inequalities are present, and that they should be eliminated. But we sometimes wonder if our efforts are going for nought when we see such slants.

ALSTON CALLAHAN, M.D.
Medical College of Alabama
Birmingham, Ala.

RADIO MINISTERS

While reading your very interesting and informative article on leading Negro ministers, I noticed the caption under Reverend Clayton Donovan Russell states his broadcasts are over KFOX. Obviously the material for this article was collected during the time Dr. Russell was with KFOX. However, since May of this year, Dr. Russell has been broadcasting over KOWL.

ARTHUR H. CROGHAN
President, KOWL Inc.
Santa Monica, Calif.

In your July edition of EBONY I think the article "Top Radio Ministers" in one part is unskillfully investigated if it means what I think it means. I am referring to your photograph of the supposed-to-be head of the Catholic Church in America.

Now if you are referring to the Roman Catholic Church then you are wrong. If this article refers to some other religious cult that calls itself Catholic and he is the leader of that, then please accept my apology for this letter.

ROGER JOHNSON
Washington, D. C.

● *ED. The American Catholic Church which Archbishop Ernest Petersen of Miami heads has no connection with the Roman Catholic Church.*

Your article on "Top Radio Preachers" in the July issue is very interesting indeed.

While we in Nashville do not have a sustaining radio program featuring one of our local ministers, many of them have appeared on the radio in various capacities, mostly as speakers on daily devotional programs being broadcast over local stations. Dr. W. J. Faulkner, who preached the Easter Dawn Service Sermon from Radio City in New York, as well as many other ministers, have distinguished themselves over Nashville's radio station.

I would call your attention to Rev. W. S. Ellington who is, perhaps, Nashville's most noted preacher. For 55

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Continued on Next Page

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LETTERS *Continued*

years he has preached an annual sermon on "The Prodigal Son," and many of these sermons have been broadcast. Twice Rev. Ellington, now 85, and the choir of First Baptist Church, East Nashville, of which he is pastor, have been heard in Christmas services on world-wide hookups. The famous sermons on "The Prodigal Son" are known

all over the country, and on the fourth Sunday in March of each year, when the sermon is preached, many, many persons turn out to hear it. This annual event is listed in the Tennessee State Blue Book as one of the important days in Tennessee.

CHARLES L. DINKINS
Secretary
Department of Christian Education
Sunday School Publishing Board
Nashville, Tenn.

HORSE TRAINERS

I was quite surprised to learn via the article "Horse Trainers" in the June issue that "though the Negro trainer and jockey are fast becoming America's vanishing turfmen, race barriers are not responsible for their gradual disappearance." Come now, let's not play ostrich. Let's face the facts. Years ago when the Negro in America was limited to just a few domestic occupational pursuits, the "horse trades" provided him with more freedom from heavy-handed supervision and better living conditions than the other types of work, hence competition for the various stable jobs was stiff and only the best man made it. At the turn of the century, horse racing became more commercialized, pay scales were raised, good jockeys were earning $3,000-$10,000 per year in fees and good trainers had similar earnings—and the Negro began to vanish from these positions. The lowly berths as grooms, hot-walkers and hustlers were left open to the Negro and in such jobs he was treated like chattel with no consideration for his rights or dignity. Some escaped the lowly ranks by donning the "handkerchief" and "displaying the ivory" and were rewarded with positions as stable foremen and trainers of strings of cripples. Even fewer, like some of the trainers you named, gained the rank by merit—but the climb was long and tortuous!

Incidentally, the article failed to mention Marshall Lilly, the dean of Negro race horse trainers whose accomplishments with the Greentree (Whitney) horses have become legend. He's still around; his career gives the little bit of extra spark to young horsemen like me who want to keep striving to overcome the bias and injustice that *does exist*, and go as far as our merit should take us!

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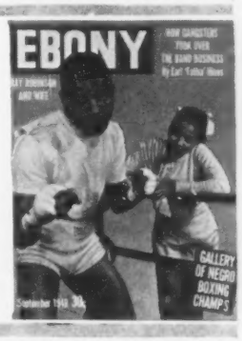
COVER

Ray Robinson has been rated by many as the best fighter "pound for pound" in the U. S. today. His wife, former Cotton Club chorus girl Edna Mae Holly, is his most enthusiastic fan. "Sugar Ray" has ruled the welterweights since 1946 when he won the championship by kayoing Tommy Bell. Recently he has been having trouble making weight and is expected to go after the middleweight crown. Ray is one of 20 Negroes who have held boxing championships in the past 60 years. Kodachrome by Werner Wolff.



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16—Griffith Davis, U. S. Air Force
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18—U. S. Air Force
19 to 22—A. M. Rivera
23 to 25—20th Century Fox
26 to 28—David Jackson
29, 30—Mike Shea
31 to 33—Wayne Miller
35—David Jackson
39—David Jackson
40—Acme, INP
41—INP, New York Daily News, Acme
42—Steve Hannagan, Moss, David Jackson
43—MGM Pictures, Wayne Miller, INP, Dehaven
44—Joe Covello—BS
47—INP
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62, 63—Joe Covello—BS
64—David Jackson, Stephen Deutsch
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66—Michael Reese Hospital
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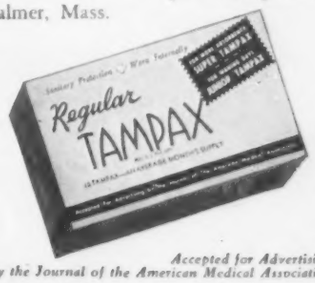

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BACKSTAGE

FLOCKS of visitors have been coming by EBONY's new offices since we officially opened house with two receptions—one for the press and another for community leaders. Both were rather festive affairs with flocks of celebrities and "ohs" and "ahs" in surprise at the new building where we put the magazine together. Lena Horne and Marva Louis (see above) also drew some well-merited exclamations while mixing with the gay crowds at our press party. Just about everyone who's seen our new setup has wondered why we haven't done something picturewise in the magazine about the place. Next month we will.

Since more than 90 per cent of EBONY's readers live outside of Chicago and environs, most can't hope to visit us. However, through the medium of EBONY's pages we can visit them and in October we'll be taking the liberty of coming into your home with a spread about ourselves.

Next month's table of contents will also include a comprehensive story on the biggest Negro church in America—the Baptists. It will feature photos of the leading Negro Baptist leaders as well as a story on the Selma, Alabama, church of Rev. D. V. Jemison, president of the National Baptist Convention.

° ° °

Assorted Miscellany: Our Billie Holiday cover hit the newsstands the same week that the noted singer was freed by a San Francisco jury on dope charges. Some newsmen think we had something to do with the verdict. . . . One out of every five copies of EBONY is now sold in New York State. . . . Last month's leprosy story in EBONY was personally arranged for by staff writer Era Bell Thompson at the Carville reservation for lepers. She was finicky before going but now personally swears leprosy is not catching. . . . This issue of EBONY with Ray "Sugar" Robinson on the cover went to press before his battle with Kid Gavilan. Guess who the editors were rooting for. . . . Staff writer Edward Clayton and photographer David Jackson had to be cleared by the FBI before they went out to the Argonne National Laboratory to do their story on "Atom Scientists" (Page 26) . . . Earl Hines admits to leaving out some names of gangsters involved in control of Negro night clubs (Page 40). He says: "There are still a lot of punks left in Chicago. I want to be around for a while." . . . "Speaking of People," our new department calling attention to Negroes doing outstanding and unusual jobs, is open to nominations from our readers. . . .

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MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

On the flight line at Randolph Field, Texas, "West Point of the Air," four cadets line up to get flying tips from instructor assigned to carry them through one phase of eight-month training. Mixed training at Randolph is part of new Air Force policy of integration. At present there are 15 Negro students at Randolph.

THE AIR FORCE GOES INTERRACIAL

New policy disperses colored fliers around world, opens all schools to Negro youth

THE SWIFTEST and most amazing upset of racial policy in the history of the U. S. military is currently turning the U. S. Air Force topsy-turvy. From a rigidly-segregated, highly color-conscious corps of 418,494 officers and enlisted men, Uncle Sam's airmen are being transformed almost overnight into a completely-mixed organization from top to bottom. Every single branch of the now-autonomous Air Force has been thrown open to qualified Negroes. No longer will Negroes be assigned to units by their race. Colored fliers will be dispersed throughout outfits around the world.

Unlike other services which have insisted on gradualism in ending racial discrimination in their ranks, the Air Force blueprinted an interracial program and adopted a precise timetable to put it into effect. By January 1, 1950, the last vestiges of Jim Crow are to be grounded permanently.

Three drastic steps have been taken by Air Secretary W. Stuart Symington and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg to integrate the 21,537 Negro AF men (as of May 30) into every phase of the service. Determined to make the new policy work, they ordered:

1. Breaking up of the all-Negro 332nd Fighter Wing at Lockburne Field, Ohio, and reassignment of all its pilots and ground officers to previously lily-white bases around the world.

2. Opening up of all training centers to qualified Negro youth.

3. Revaluation of the abilities of all non-flying Negroes in the Air Force and reassignment of these men so that they can advance as far as their talents will take them.

The program is moving at breakneck speed for the military. The first transfers of 332nd pilots to new bases began in mid-June and will be complete for Lockburne's 228 officers, 1750 enlisted men and 90 WAAF's (Women's auxiliary) by this month. Some Negro personnel will stay at Lockburne but the field will no longer be all-Negro and they will fit into the newly-integrated picture.

Col. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., 332nd commander and most prominent Negro in any service, will go to the Air War College at Maxwell Field, Ala., for a year to take a long-overdue course for command officers.

Actual beginning of the Air Force transition was in July, 1947, when the first Negroes entered training classes at Randolph Field, Texas, the "West Point of the Air." Smooth operation of the interracial setup there helped convince top Air Force brass to follow President Truman's repeated demands for the end of Jim Crow in all services. To date some 30 Negro cadets have graduated from Randolph, going to school, eating, sleeping and socializing with white cadets from all over the country without incident. How these mixed cadets get their training valued at $32,000 per man is pictured in the photos on these pages.

Continued on Next Page

CADETS MIX EASILY

In radio code class, students listen to dot-dash signals during laboratory practice. In classes students are seated in alphabetical order. Air Force has done little enlistment in Negro colleges, recruiting teams visiting only Wilberforce and Howard.

After-class session goes over operation of navigation computer. Flight assignments after graduation are made on basis of mental reactions. Slow deliberate thinkers are assigned to bombers. Quick thinkers are considered more adept for fighters.

BOARDED UP and abandoned by the Air Force, the Tuskegee air field where 992 Negro fliers got their wings from 1941 to 1946 is a symbol of the end of Jim Crow for Uncle Sam's fighting airmen. The runways were built over the objections of NAACP leaders to train Negro pilots under a segregated setup. It is questionable whether the field, now listed as a "war asset," will ever be used again for Air Force operations. There are too many better-located, better-equipped bases available.

The handful of Negroes who got preliminary training at Tuskegee and then went to Randolph Field as cadets found that out. In every case they agree that air schooling in a mixed student body and with the finest equipment money can buy is far better than Tuskegee's often-makeshift setup.

Largest basic pilot training school in the U. S., 20-year-old Randolph Field today is the first stop for any cadet, white or Negro, along the road to a pilot's commission. For two years now, the pick of the nation's youth have been flying in mixed formations at Randolph. Base bigwigs, raw cadets and student officers (commissioned in other fields, before air training) are taking integration as routine. One Northern colored cadet found race relations at Randolph "somewhat better than in New York City."

Life at Randolph is democratic but rugged. Learning to pilot the AT-6 North American "Texan" airship through the bright Lone Star skies is a round-the-clock job that starts at 6 a.m. each morning and does not end until "lights out" at 9 p.m. Randolph cadets no longer work up the scale from the old bi-plane PT's, but now start with a plane used in advanced training during the war. The step to supercharged jets is thereby made easier. But the change has increased the time needed to solo a student from eight hours to 22 hours.

All students work and live under the same conditions in Randolph's integrated pattern. In sleeping quarters, Negro cadets bunk with white, Nisei, Chinese and other racial groups four to a room. However, it is a policy not to have one Negro bunking in a room with three whites. Cadets are divided equally racially so that the colored students will feel more "at home" when they turn in at night.

Courses in subjects ranging from flight theory to military law are given by battle-tested instructors who follow the non-discriminatory plan faithfully. One Negro cadet found some instructors sometimes

Assignment as cadet lieutenant is won by leadership qualities. Here Negro lieutenant marches flight of cadets to flying line from barracks. Negroes are not relegated to any one flight. They are interspersed in different flight groups. Under new AF setup Negro officers will be able to command white units for first time.

AT AIR WEST POINT

went out of their way to take up their problems. In flying formations where there are anywhere from three to six planes, it is rare to find more than one colored student. Off duty, cadets mix freely to "shoot the breeze." Students of all races mix in post theaters and exchanges.

The interracial pattern is good on the Randolph post but it is taboo outside the flying field's gates. Just 18 miles from Randolph at San Antonio, racial barriers stand up like the famed Alamo. When a Negro cadet goes off post, he moves "across the tracks." The Cadets Club at the Jim Crow Gunter Hotel is strictly for whites. One colored cadet commented: "If the people of San Antonio had anything to do with the setup here, I doubt strongly whether there would be an integrated program at Randolph."

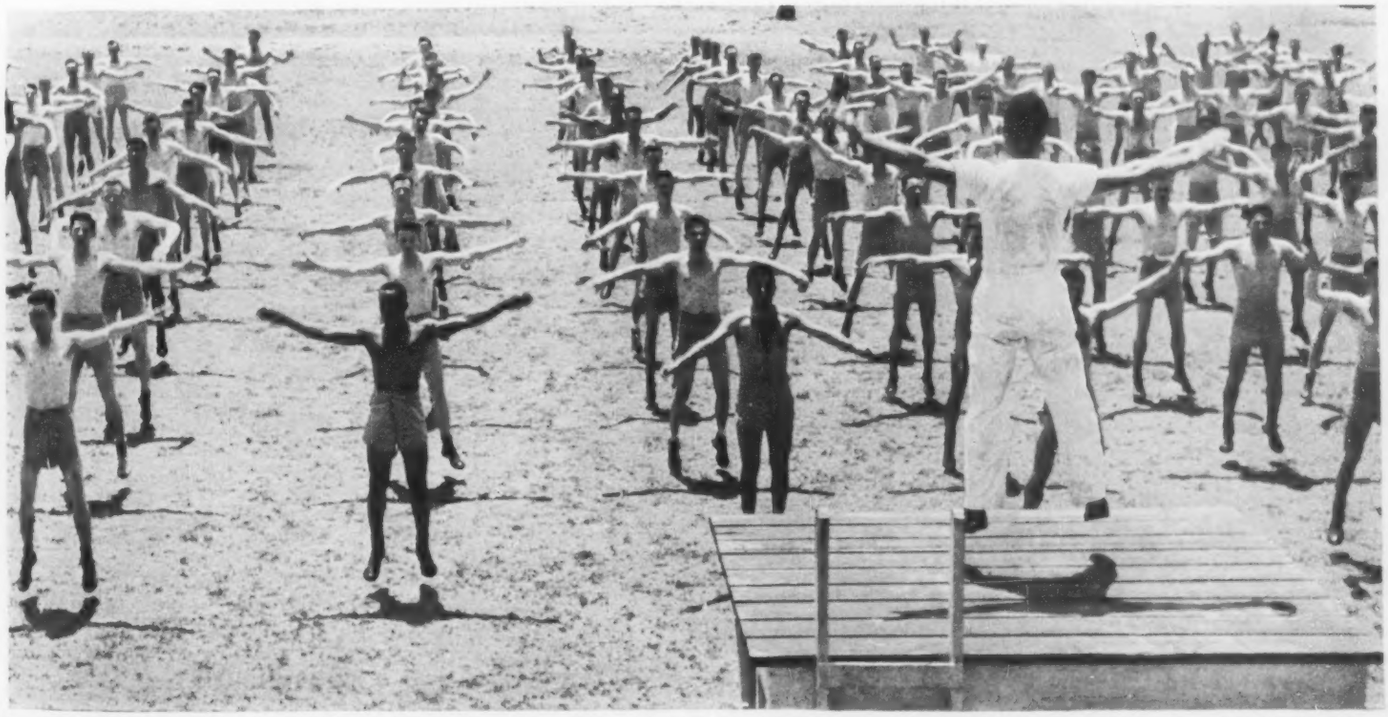
Lucky cadets, who struggle through the tough eight months in basic, go on to advanced training at Barksdale (Louisiana) and Williams (Arizona) Air Force bases for 15 weeks. They drill in war-tried F-51 Mustangs and the pick of the class get training in flying Lockheed F-80 Shooting Stars. One of the tests for these F-80 jet pilots is ability to touch immediately while blindfolded any control in the cockpit on request without faltering. (At least two Lockburne airmen have been reassigned to jet units—2nd Lts. Veron W. Burke of Boston and Lawrence F. Campbell, Jr., of Portland. They will serve with the 33rd Fighter Wing at Otis Air Base, Falmouth, Mass.)

The first Negro to get through postwar advanced training, Fort Worth-born Claude R. Platte, was a former commercial pilot who had taught at Tuskegee during the war. Most white cadets, who ate, slept and drilled with Platte, said: "He's an officer I'd like to serve with." Finishing in the upper third of his Williams Field class, Platte found his experiences in mixed training a revelation in race relations. "The white cadets would often invite me to places where Negroes weren't allowed," he recalls. "Only twice did I accept but nothing was said although I expected something would develop." He found his greatest thrill "the many requests of white instructors to ride with me to see how a Negro flies."

Up until June when a Negro got through "advanced," he was at the end of the "integrated" rope. Like Platte, he wound up with an assignment to the all-Negro 332nd at Lockburne. But today newly-graduated Negro pilots are assigned on exactly the same basis as any white cadet, being given the job which they are most qualified to fill.

In cadet mess hall, students eat by flights. Lieutenant sits at head of table and signals waiter by putting left hand up in air. Cadets enter together but leave individually as they finish. Currently cadets make $75 a month.

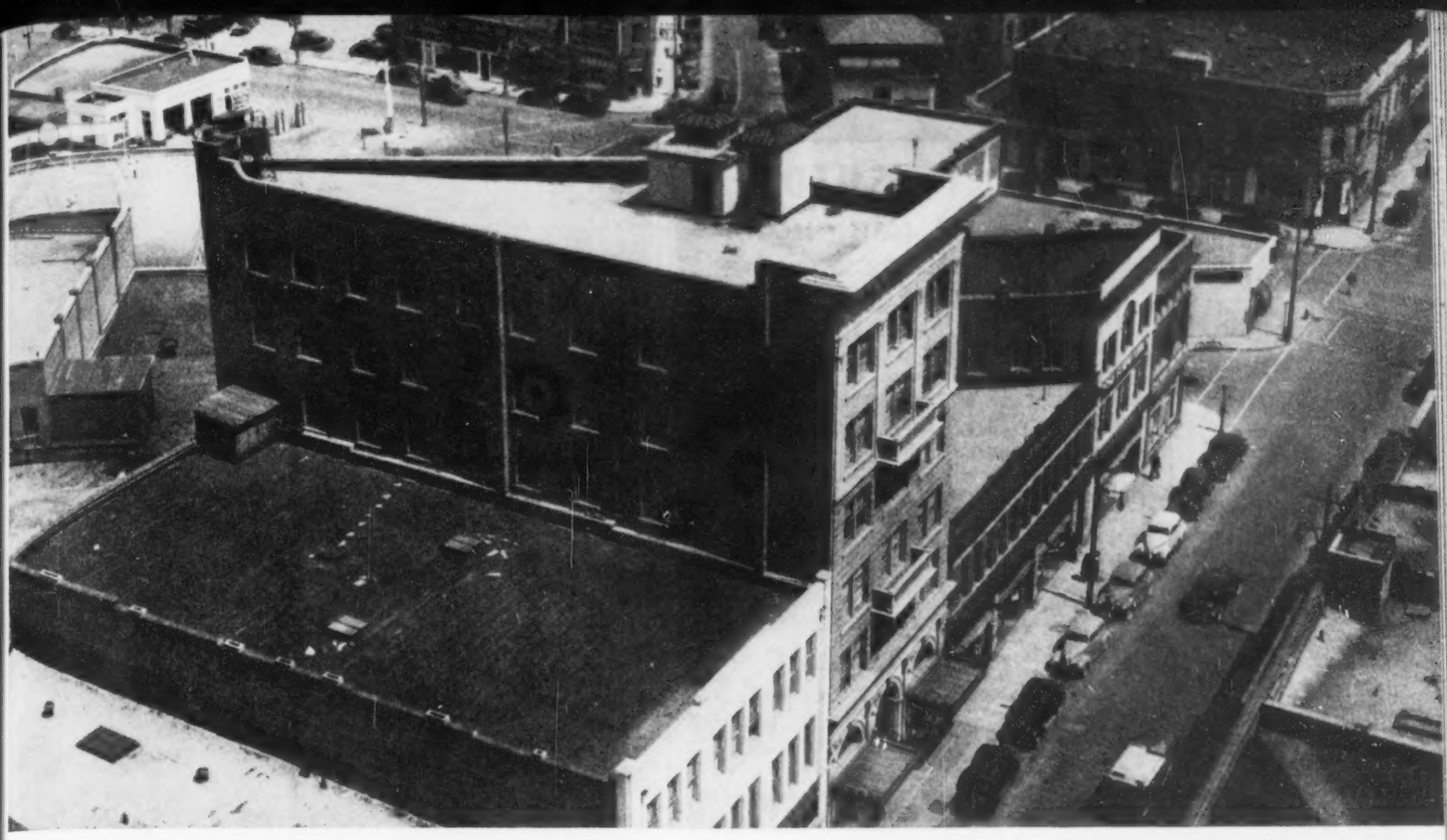
In athletics, cadets mix freely as in classes. Rate of washouts among Randolph trainees is 50 per cent. Negro rate is close to average. Chief causes are lack of physical coordination, weak judgment and failure to plan ahead of aircraft.



Physical training is taken by cadets but student officers can play baseball or do what they wish during this period. Sometimes calisthenics class does army routine of "policing area," that is picking up cigarette butts. Negro officers in Air Force now total 323 out of a total of 55,329 in the service.

Continued on Next Page

One of first Negro jet trainees, Cadet James E. Sims of Tulsa, Oklahoma, climbs into the cockpit of an F-80 "Shooting Star" at Williams Air Base in Arizona. A half-dozen Negroes have been trained in flying these 600-mile-per-hour jet planes up to date. One top defense official has predicted that all colored pilots will be flying them soon.



World's richest Negro business, Durham's 50-year-old, 23-million-dollar North Carolina Mutual Insurance Co., is housed in six-story fireproof building in heart of white business area. Overlord of greatest Negro financial empire anywhere in world is C. C. Spaulding, shown (below) with his two grandsons, C. C. Spaulding III and Booker Jr.

WALL STREET OF NEGRO AMERICA

Single building in Durham has more million-dollar Negro businesses than anywhere else in world

FINANCE CAPITAL of Negro America—a veritable miniature of ticker-littered Wall Street—is Durham, North Carolina, where in one building more million-dollar colored business firms are found than anywhere in the world. On its downtown Parrish Street is the biggest Negro insurance company in the world, the second richest Negro bank in America, the only Negro fire insurance firm in the world and the wealthiest Negro building and loan association in the country. From these institutions located in the heart of the white business district comes the pump-priming capital that finances dozens of Negro businesses.

It is the proud boast of townspeople that the dollar stays longer among Negroes in Durham than anywhere in America.

The "J. P. Morgan" of this "Black Wall Street" is affable, 72-year-old ex-dishwasher C. C. Spaulding, who heads at least a half-dozen firms valued in excess of $30,000,000. Biggest pawn in his financial empire and basic lifeline of Durham's Negro business is the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, which is the third largest business in the city—outranked only by the Lucky Strike and Chesterfield tobacco plants. It has insured Negroes in 11 states for a total of almost $150,000,000.

Around the massive assets of the firm have been built interlocking million-dollar subsidiaries as well as dozens of pioneering Durham businesses by providing capital for investment. Last year the Mechanics and Farmers Bank, which Spaulding also heads, made 3,200 different loans, nearly all to Negroes. Oustanding colored businesses in the city range from a downtown tailoring shop that has an 80 per cent white clientele to a fish market that hit a $90,000 gross last year.

Continued on Next Page

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Interracial taxicab owners association was formed by 22 cab owners six years ago and is headed by president J. R. Parham (seated left) and board chairman J. M. Samonds (right). Organization controls 189 cabs, 98 of them belonging to Negroes.

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Building construction firm was begun in 1946 by Llewellyn Berry, Hampton graduate who has erected four churches and 25 homes. Firm employs 36 workmen. Spaulding's firm, Mutual Building and Loan, recently completed 19 new homes.

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Theater owner George W. Logan runs chain of four movie houses. He is ex-teacher who invested World War I earnings in theaters. During Henry Wallace election tour in South, he came into prominence by having candidate as guest in home.

Lincoln Hospital is unusual medical institution for South, having totally integrated staff of 11 white and six Negro physicians. The 100-bed hospital is 48 years old, is supported financially by city and county of Durham.

TOBACCO JOBS, FARMS ARE BULWARK OF CITY BUSINESS

TOBACCO built the city of Durham and is still the bulwark of the city's economic life. Actually all the 300-odd Negro businesses in the city provide jobs for only 2,000 (North Carolina Mutual alone employs 1,000 with a total payroll in 1948 of $2,066,918), while the five Durham tobacco firms employ 8,000 Negroes, mostly in semi-skilled and menial capacities.

As one of the key centers of America's tobacco-producing states, Durham county also boasts 104 independent Negro farmers harvesting lush incomes from their rich tobacco lands. These tobacco farmers and factory workers provide Durham's businessmen with an unending feeder line for their financial investments.

Some of the outstanding businesses that have thrived in recent years include:

Smith's Fish Market. Begun by ex-Toledo postal clerk Freeman M. Smith in 1940, the market supplies Durham's biggest white hotel, the Washington Duke, and many white and Negro eating establishments. Employing five, Smith grossed $90,000 last year and is now opening four more retail outlets throughout the city.

Rowland and Mitchell. This quality tailor shop was organized in 1930 when a store in which H. Rowland worked was destroyed by fire and another where W. Z. Mitchell was employed went out of business. The two become partners, today do high class custom tailoring for exclusive whites and alterations for leading Durham department stores. Their customers are 80 per cent white.

Thomas Bailey & Sons. Meat market and grocery, started in 1919, last year grossed $80,000. During war they raised own produce on nearby farm, also slaughtered own cattle and hogs.

Home Modernization and Supply Co. Started as building repair service in 1938 by two brothers, U. M. and R. S. George, company has constructed 500 homes in Durham area. Employing 35, business last year totaled $100,000 gross including sales in hardware and paints.

Because of prosperous business, Negroes in Durham have a higher standard of living and better housing than in any city of comparable size (pop. 80,000). Here, too, the Spaulding empire plays a key role for more than 90 per cent of houses built by Negroes in the last 20 years have been financed by his bank, loan or insurance company.

Continued on Next Page

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PIONEER BOOT COMPANY, E-9
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"Million-Dollar White Way" is popular description for block where local hotel, movie house and Donut Shop are located and where leading Negroes usually congregate. Actually buildings on this block are valued at $500,000.

DURHAM LENDS INVESTMENT CAPITAL ALL OVER SOUTH

THE PROSPERITY of Negroes in Durham is reflected not only in the thriving tobacco town but also by lending money to Negro businessmen from Miami to Philadelphia. The financial barons of Parrish Street have made their influence felt throughout the South with loans that last year had totaled more than $3,500,000. One of the recipients of a recent loan was Ira Bryant, secretary of the Methodist publishing house in Nashville who was involved in a court fight with the church. To pay a judgment against himself, Bryant got a loan of $90,000 from North Carolina Mutual for which he put up real estate as security.

Spaulding early recognized the need for higher living standards among Durham's Negroes and 26 years ago organized the Mutual Building and Loan Association to encourage home ownership. It now has assets of more than one million dollars and is largely responsible for the fact that one out of every four Negro families in the city owns its home.

One of the finest Negro residential areas in the South is College Heights where most well-to-do Negroes have beautiful homes. Newest home in the area is a modern $35,000 structure being built by Dr. David Cooke.

Many business firms own buildings in which they operate. Typical is Mrs. Jacquline DeShazor, who came to Durham 12 years ago from Brooklyn with $150 and started a beauty school. From her beginning in three rooms, she had expanded in 1945 to all 36 rooms in the three-story building which she bought for $42,500. She has graduated 1,500 students, currently has 425 in attendance. Physical plant of her school today is worth $80,000.

One type of investment is scarce in Durham—cabarets and night clubs. There are only a few beer parlors of the juke box variety in the city.

Doctor Leroy Swift is recognized gynecologist, one of 11 physicians in Durham. City has five dentists.

Editor L. E. Austin runs militant Carolina Times which crusades for Negro vote. Total of 2,600 voted in Spring.

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PINKY

Story on girl who passes will be most debated film of year

WITH its touchy theme of a Negro girl who passes and gets involved in an interracial romance, 20th Century-Fox's much-ballyhooed *Pinky* is bound to be one of the most-debated, most-talked-about movies of 1949 when it opens in the nation's theaters next month. Its moving, melodramatic story of a light-complexioned Mississippi girl (played by Jeanne Crain), who faces up to her Negro heritage and fights for it, will come as a shocker to many white audiences. But *Pinky* will also have much to stun colored audiences too. Its casting of Ethel Waters as an out-and-out Dixie mammy and Nina Mae McKinney as a razor-toting hussy is certain to offend Negroes.

Based on Cid Ricketts Sumner's novel, *Quality*, the movie does make a resounding plea for the Negro rights in spots. High point of the script by Philip Dunne and Dudley Nichols is when Ethel Barrymore as the dying spinster talks about the possible marriage of Pinky to a white doctor: "Even if we could prevent this marriage, we'd be no closer to solving the problem of her life. There must be thousands like her, the same education, the same intelligence. Fine, young sensitive people—and what do we do for them? We give them political freedom without its meaning. We give them education and withhold its rewards. Dignity and pride can be more important than food and shelter."

Running two hours and ten minutes, *Pinky* will be issued in 27 different languages.

Returning to ramshackle Mississippi home after passing in a Boston nursing school, Pinky (Jeanne Crain) is unhappy because of love affair with white doctor. Grandmother (Ethel Waters) berates her for passing.

Sting of color line is felt by Pinky when she tries to collect money due her from Jake (Frederick O'Neal) and gets into fight with his girl friend (Nina Mae McKinney). Both are hauled into court after cops learn Pinky is colored.

On walk to think over her plight, Pinky is accosted by two white men who tell her: "We cain't let no white girl walk by herself in this nigger section." When she says she lives there, one says: "She's the whitest dinge I ever saw."

Continued on Next Page

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Are you forced to pass up glamour gowns and formal parties because of psoriasis lesions? Then try *SIROIL*. If it helps you, as it has so many thousands of others, a whole new world may be open to you. *SIROIL* tends to remove the crusts and scales of psoriasis which are external in character and located on the outer layer of the skin. If or when your psoriasis lesions recur, light applications of *SIROIL* will help keep them under control. Applied externally *SIROIL* does not stain clothing or bed linens, nor does it interfere in any way with your daily routine. Try it. Certainly it's worth a trial, particularly since it's offered to you on a two-weeks'-satisfaction-or-money-refunded basis.

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Please send me your free booklet on Psoriasis.
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Ready to return North to her lover, Pinky is prevailed upon by Granny to change mind and nurse dying Miss Em (Ethel Barrymore), a white aristocratic woman. Pinky, who recalls being thrown off grounds as a child, has no love for patient.

White doctor (William Lundigan) finally traces Pinky and comes to town to take her away. He is shocked to find she's Negro but claims it makes no difference to him. Pinky promises to go with him as soon as Miss Em recovers.

Miss Em's will names Pinky as heir, town doctor reveals. But relatives contest will in court, claim that Pinky doped old woman. Lover returns and urges Pinky to leave with him. But she is determined to fight, says: "I'm not going to run."

Court case opens as Negro newspapers headline story: "Negro Heiress Defies Lynch Law." Lawyer-friend of Miss Em's has agreed to take Pinky's case. Race angle is brought into trial but in surprise verdict judge rules in favor of Pinky.

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Taking over Miss Em's house, Pinky uses place to start clinic and nursing school with aid of local Negro doctor (Kenny Washington). She turns down white doctor who wants to take her to Denver "where nobody will know our secret."

ZANUCK MADE MOVIE DESPITE CRITICISM OF RACIAL THEME

BOTH KNOWN as foremost liberals, producer Darryl F. Zanuck and director Elia Kazan (who did *Gentleman's Agreement*) filmed *Pinky* despite much criticism of its script. NAACP secretary Walter White, a close friend of Zanuck's, read the story and told Zanuck it would be resented by Negroes. White also submitted it to a panel of five Negroes who were even more critical of it than he. His daughter Jane acted as technical adviser on the picture for a short while and submitted a number of memorandums to Zanuck suggesting drastic changes but these were not made.

Kazan admitted limitations in the film after its completion but insisted: "We do show a real Negro as our central character, not a fawning person but the average Negro who, I think, is bitter, goes around thinking white people don't like him and who is a fighter." Kazan is worried about the love story. "I'm worried," he says, "because people might think we're saying Negroes and whites shouldn't marry. We solve this story in personal terms. This particular boy and girl shouldn't get married. If the doctor had been more perceptive, we should have had a different story. But we don't mean this story to be true of all people with colored and white skins."

Jeanne Crain believes her role of Pinky is the "finest I ever played." Trying to fit her into the part of a part-Negro girl, the studio makeup man tried every dark shade in his grease-paint box before settling on a lighter shade than she usually wears.

The star tested for the role in a scene with Ethel Waters and recalls: "Our features tied in. We were believable as a grandmother and her granddaughter and I got the part."

To prepare herself for the part she read a book on the theme of passing. "I asked myself," she notes, "how a young Negro girl would feel most every day. And I remembered times in school when I was humiliated horribly. I used those times as a base for my understanding of the part. I think everyone has experienced what colored people face daily and I hope this movie does some good. So many people have told me not to stir up anything that I feel we've got to really move them into feeling for Pinky and her problems."

Key to the Pinky role is the growth of racial awareness in her during the film. When the white doctor proposes that they marry and she lose her identity as a Negro since "the Northern Negro papers have given a lot of publicity to us," she decides to break up their love affair and tells him: "I'm a Negro. I can't forget it and I can't deny it. I can't pretend to be anything else. I don't want to be anything else. I can see it now clearly for the first time. You can't live without pride."

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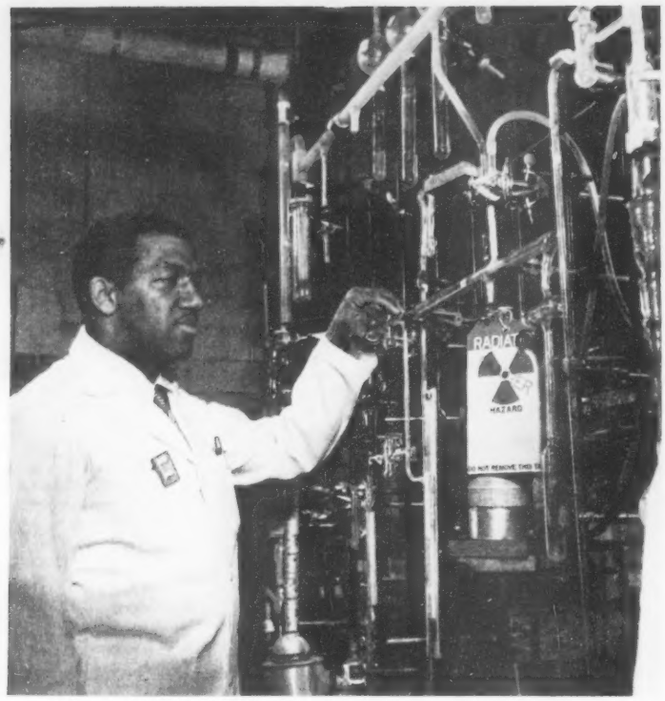


Phillip A. Sellars, 30, has been researcher at Argonne four years, prepared an anti-cancer compound with radioactive Carbon 14 for Northwestern U. Virginia-born chemist experimented with protactinium, one of rarest elements.

Ella Tyree, 29, injects atomic materials into animals to determine effects of radiation on humans. Spelman graduate first managed Argonne animal farm, later transferred to current job. Biologist has authored several papers on her work.

ATOM SCIENTISTS

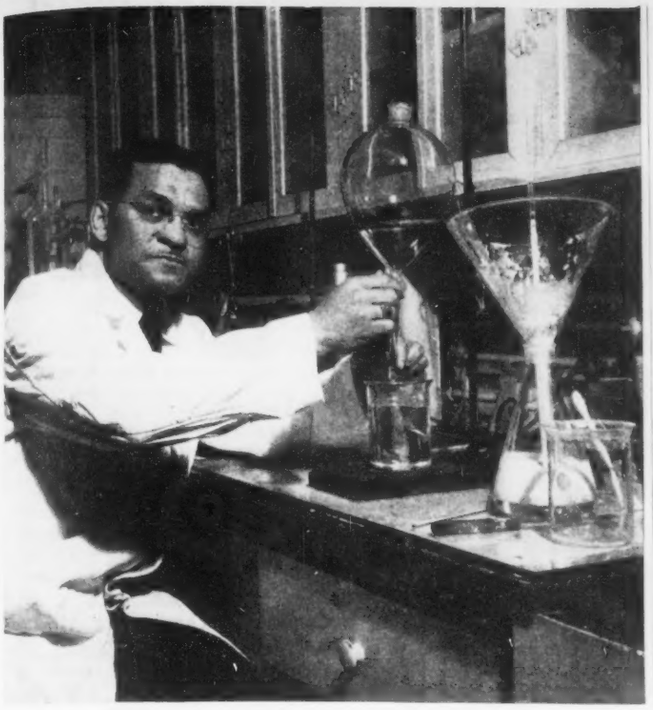
Ten Negro scientists at Argonne lab help in race to harness atomic materials for peaceful uses

SINCE the historic day in 1942 when a guarded, anxious band of scientists assembled in secret under the stands of a University of Chicago football stadium to crack finally the centuries-old secret of atomic energy, the world's men of science have been racing behind closed doors to find new ways to harness the newly-split atom for peaceful benefits rather than bombs for new wars. America's main center of research is a multimillion-dollar laboratory in a Chicago suburb where recently four grams of invaluable uranium disappeared to cause a national scandal and a Congressional investigation.

Among the hundreds of FBI-screened men of science working at the Argonne National Laboratories is a selected handful of Negroes,

Herschel D. Wallace, 31, started at Argonne in 1944, has had four promotions since. Medical college student operates on animals in experiments on removal of radioactive substances from body. Biochemist has worked on six-month-long experiments.

Blanche Lawrence, 28, is widow of 99th Pursuit Squadron pilot who was killed in action overseas. Working at Argonne for past five years, Tuskegee graduate started as lab technician and is now junior biochemist.



Harold B. Evans, 41, is highest-ranking Negro scientist at Argonne, has been at lab since 1943. Michigan State graduate works in highly-secretive engineering division which deals with extraction of radioactive elements from various materials.

whose research skill is playing no small part to help convert atomic material for useful purposes in medicine and industry. Their work with highly-dangerous, radioactive elements is a closely veiled secret.

The security officials at Argonne have lifted the curtain temporarily to allow EBONY to take the photos on these pages of ten of the outstanding Negro scientists. Most Negroes are junior chemists and technicians at the laboratory. All have a deep-seated love for their work, dangerous as it is. As one put it, "I do this because I love it. I don't want money and I certainly don't expect to get rich as a scientist. I just like the work, and if I didn't do it here, I'd probably be experimenting at home—in my basement."

Sylvanus A. Tyler, 34, assists biology division in planning experiments efficiently. Fisk graduate is crack mathematician who worked with famed Arthur Compton on cosmic ray analysis, once helped compile statistics for book, *Black Metropolis.*

Continued on Next Page

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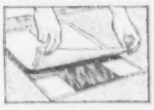

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Robert B. Pairs, 42, builds electronic circuits for use in atom research. He has been at Argonne six years.

Lloyd A. Quarterman, 30, got interested in chemistry playing with toy sets, measures energy levels of materials.

WORK ON ATOMIC MATERIALS REQUIRES TOP PRECAUTION

WORKING with atomic materials is a ticklish business that requires a maximum of precaution and care. Some of the Negro scientists at Argonne work in departments where they are constantly in danger of contact with deadly atomic materials. Chemical engineer Virgil Trice is not allowed to wear his street clothes at work. All clothing, including underwear, is issued by the lab. Any that becomes contaminated with radiation is placed in a stainless steel vault and deposited underground. He is not allowed to keep food or chewing tobacco near jobs.

Junior chemist Lloyd Quarterman says: "You can expect almost anything when you are exploring. It's just like playing poker; you've got to keep your eyes open."

Most of the experiments at Argonne are involved in such projects as disease prevention, prolonging human life and producing new sources of power. Some of the Negro scientists have made significant contributions toward the use of radioactive elements for combatting cancer and muscular paralysis, while others have done extensive research in determining what effect radiation has on humans.

Six of the colored scientists at the Argonne lab were among the Negroes who worked for the now-famed Manhattan District of the War Department in developing the atomic bomb. The name of the Manhattan District was changed to the Argonne laboratories in 1946. As during the war it is operated for the government by the University of Chicago.

Virgil Trice, 23, helps build pilot plants to separate atomic materials. Purdue graduate is ex-Navy ensign.

Cynthia Hall, 26, once worked in morgue analyzing poisons in humans, now analyzes solutions for radiation.

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SARAH VAUGHAN

She is most-imitated singer as well as most controversial

PERHAPS no style of singing has ever excited as much controversy in jazz circles as the vocal eccentricities of vibrant, instrument-throated Sarah Vaughan, rated as No. 1 female singer in the U. S. by every major popularity poll in the past year. Picked as top vocalist by Downbeat, Metronome, Orchestra World and Billboard, the 25-year-old songstress has been called everything from a genius to a fraud. Her bizarre ballad delivery has been called "toothpaste smooth" by Time Magazine while another critic insists she sings "as if she had a clothespin on her nose."

Whether pro or con, all musical men agree that she has unquestionably the most original delivery of any popular singer today. She has become the most-imitated chanteuse in the business.

Sarah herself explains her slurred, relaxed, improvised intonations as ideas which come to her from continual practice. She plays around with gliding passages on a piano or organ. "Then when I'm singing I close my eyes and picture my voice following the piano or organ runs." Results are not only a vocal but also a visual experience, as the photos of Sarah singing *Don't Blame Me* demonstrate.

Cocked head and moody eyes are typical gestures in Sarah Vaughan song delivery. Emotional, uninhibited style has hard-hitting impact on listeners, especially in romantic ballads that make up most of Sarah's repertoire.

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Don't blame-ame-ame-ame me-e-e-e-e

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With y-o-u-ou-ou-ou

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Don-n-n-n-n't blame me

Continued on Next Page

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Rehearsal for Sarah is often in empty night club in early afternoon with husband and ex-trumpeter George Treadwell as lone listener-in. Treadwell is girl vocalist's personal and business manager, personally selected 50 gowns in wardrobe.

SARAH GOT HER INSPIRATION FROM ECKSTINE AND BEBOP

JAZZ connoisseurs, who have been waging a heated word war over Sarah Vaughan since she won a Harlem amateur night contest six years ago, get a chance to renew their verbal battle this coming month when the onetime Newark choir singer opens her first stand at New York's ranking showcase, the Paramount Theater. She follows her initial mentor, Billy Eckstine, whose Spring engagement at the Paramount plummeted him to new heights in the show world. It was Eckstine who first recommended Sarah to Earl Hines after hearing her at the Apollo. Later when he quit the Hines band and formed his own unit, Sarah joined Eckstine. Today the two rank as top male and female vocalists in the nation.

Sarah stayed with Eckstine a year before trying out as a single in a 52nd Street night spot. It was then she started making records in earnest and before long her *Don't Blame Me* and *Body and Soul* became virtual jazz classics. In the last six months more than 3,000,000 of her discs were sold.

Playing night clubs from coast to coast, from Bop City to Ciro's of Hollywood, Sarah has hit a new peak in popularity in the past year.

Much of Sarah's power to draw at the gate can be credited to the wide appeal she has among young jazz fans, musicians and singers. Last year Metronone singled her out as jazz's "Influence of the Year."

"Her bent notes and her twisting of musical phrases," commented the jazz publication then, "have been the envy of and basis for the styles of a good many singers . . . many of them were mimicking her every vocal stance and prance; not since the first scoops of Billie Holiday has a singer hit other singers so hard. . . ."

Sarah's song pattern is sanctioned by bebop devotees, many of whom believe that she best expresses the feeling of the New Music. She added bop tricks to her singing in her stint with the Billy Eckstine band which highlighted the present giants of bebop including trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie and altoist Charlie Parker.

"I still get my biggest inspiration from those fellows," says Sarah. "I'm solidly behind their music."

Sarah would like to add more bop to her vocal forte but finds too few promoters willing to showcase the "revolutionary" music.

Her style is already considered too "progressive" in some jazz circles, yet has been no barrier to bookings. She is now booked solidly in theater and night clubs up to 1950. Her attractive, long-term contract with Columbia records will keep her busy for an even longer period.

Set financially Sarah has no cause for immediate worry. But says she, "I'll not be satisfied until I'm singing in the concert field. That's my goal now."

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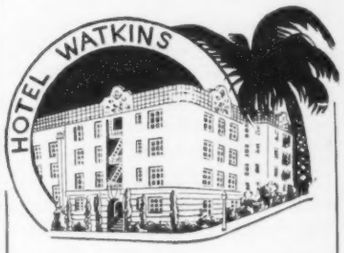

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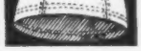

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Rev. Mary G. Evans preaches from pulpit next to eight-foot neon-lighted cross in her non-denominational Cosmopolitan Community Church, which has more tithers among members (64%) than any other Protestant church. Members pledge minimum of 10% of earnings, helped build new $228,000 community center (below).

LADY PREACHER

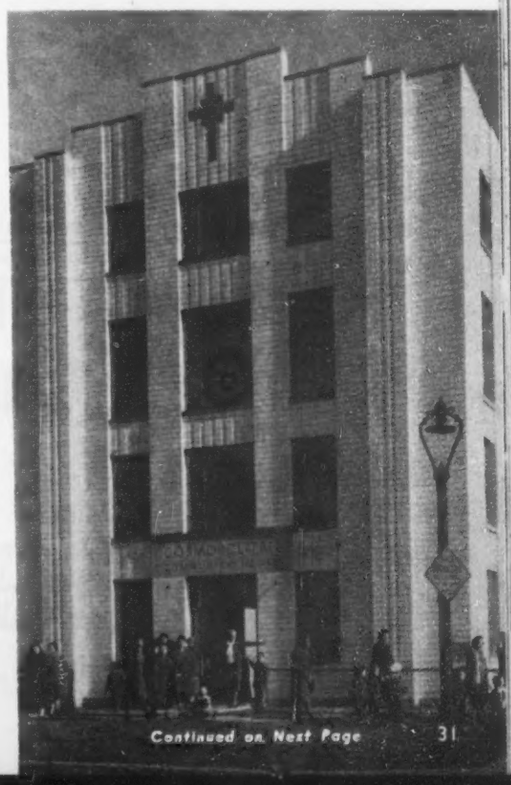
Chicago's Rev. Mary Evans makes her church a community force

THAT religious rarity, a woman in the pulpit, is still frowned upon in most U. S. churches but while the argument rages over the female encroachment upon man's last professional stronghold, 58-year-old Rev. Mary G. Evans of Chicago's Cosmopolitan Community Church is proving that not only can a lady make a good preacher but also a better community.

Preaching that oldtime religion in an ultramodernistic setting and combining a gospel of faith and rigid discipline with a sound system of tithing, the former evangelist has welded together one of the most progressive and purposeful religious bodies in the nation. As a women minister she would find disfavor with the majority of Americans who are reluctant to accept female clergy (according to the Gallup Poll) but in her church and in her community the Reverend Evans is as popular and influential as any religious figure in America.

Last Thanksgiving Reverend Evans realized the dream of many a minister when the church opened a modern community center with free medical, education and recreation facilities available to all faiths. Half of the money for the new structure was given by tithing members of the congregation. Wilberforce-educated Dr. Evans sets the philanthropic pace for her flock. In any fund campaign, she contributes 10 per cent of the total sum to be raised. In her 17 years at the church, a total of $500,000 has been collected.

Reverend Evans herself is not on a salary. Monthly "love offerings" are given her by members and netted her $9,000 last year—more perhaps than any salaried Negro minister in Chicago.



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RIGID CHURCH DISCIPLINE IS

SHORT SERVICES of stop-watch precision, only one collection (1½ minutes), beautiful church music, and a sermon so full of oldtime religion that it makes folks shout and cry "Amen" is Reverend Evans' formula for ministerial success.

Today her church corner is a religious, recreational and medical center as well as a budding new business mecca. Chimes and organ music drown out raucous big city noises, and 1200-watt floodlights nightly shine on a huge cross over the patio facade of the neat white temple. So bright is the area that the nightwatchman is no longer needed.

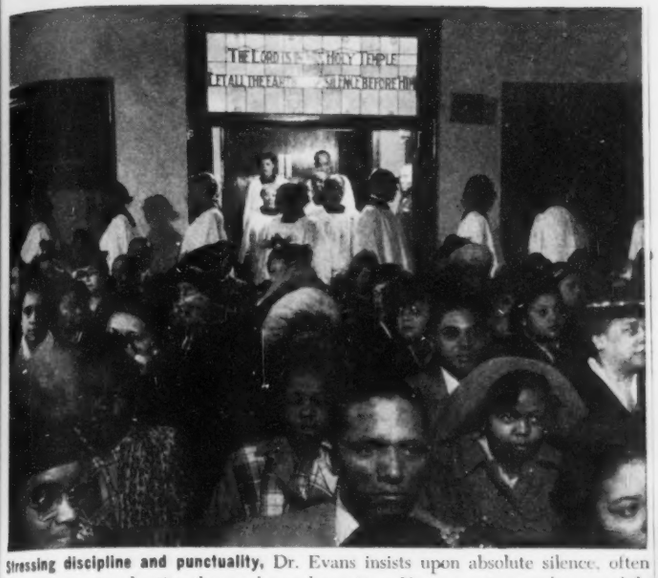
After proving the worth of tithing by erasing a $36,000 indebtedness four years after taking over the pulpit, the energetic woman preacher set about instilling a sense of beauty and orderliness in the lives of her flock and a deep reverence and respect for the House of God.

Signs of silence prominently displayed in her church are not to be taken lightly. Irreverence is forbidden by the church constitution and personally enforced by its minister. Only one person, a woman, quit because of church discipline (two thirds of the congregation are women). For most members that is one of Cosmopolitan's most important features. The other: Dr. Evans' passion for punctuality. No one enters the auditorium once the service has begun.

Worshiping God is on the daily schedule for members of Cosmopolitan. Church doors open at 6 a.m. for any who wish to stop and pray. Wednesday night prayer meetings draw over 300 people, and Friday night meditation hour is even more popular.

Rhythm band composed of 32 tots from three to ten years old play every fifth Sunday at morning worship.

Top fund raisers are Dr. Evans and Jean Jones, 8, sole members of Club 13 who have raised $15,000.



Stressing discipline and punctuality, Dr. Evans insists upon absolute silence, often stops sermon to chastise those who make noise. No one enters or leaves while service is in progress. Choir members and ushers cannot chew gum or wear jewelry.

ENFORCED BY REVEREND EVANS

Arguments that lady preachers might interrupt gospel spreading to powder their noses or have babies are lost on Dr. Evans. She has never married. She uses no cosmetics and her short black hair is parted in the middle, combed back in a plain bob.

Because she believes so strongly in youth she has geared her whole program to their needs. Among her birthday gifts to the church (she never accepts personal gifts) are a playground and a sundeck to be built atop the new center. When the president of a Chicago bank saw the children at play, he called a meeting of his board of directors on the spot and voted to loan the church $60,000 for their center. When no one else would build without a large deposit, a white Catholic contractor used $30,000 of his own money and went to work.

Some $160,000 of the money came from pockets of the parishioners. The balance is being raised by outside gifts from both races. The head of the Kraft Cheese Company gave several large checks and radio minister Rev. Clarence Cobb, who was invited to use the church when his own burned down, donated $1,000.

Although she plans to retire when 60, Dr. Mary Evans knows she can never go far from her life's work. She preached her first sermon when six, her first licensed appearance before 1,800 at Chicago's Bethel Church when a child of 12. She played the organ for 25 cents a month in her uncle's church. For 25 years she was a traveling evangelist. In 1913, while a delegate to the World Sunday School convention in Switzerland, she visited the Holy Land and was baptised in the River Jordan.

Free clinics for all faiths will be offered community by new church center. Building has 18 rental offices to make venture self-supporting. Dr. Evans, first woman to get doctorate from Wilberforce, is at church at 5 each morning.

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WHY NEGROES BUY CADILLACS

BY NOW a virtual institution in Negro life is the steadfast flock of blue-nosed do-gooders who every so often break out into a rash of heated denunciations of the "lack of thrift" among us colored folk. What usually riles these straight-laced modern-day puritans more than anything else is the spectacle of plush, fin-tailed Cadillacs that seem to be in abundance on the boulevards of many colored communities these days. Cadillacs are becoming so commonplace on Lenox Avenue, South Parkway and Central Avenue that rumors are floating around to the effect that General Motors is trying to curb sales to colored customers lest their prize species of the automobile trade be labeled as "a Negro car."

The profusion of Cadillacs is evidence per se to many penurious, sanctimonious prudes of a spendthrift, pompous way of life among upper class Negroes. They make no bones about their disapproval and through a variety of forums ranging from the pulpit to the press express their pedantic condemnation in no uncertain terms. They bemoan investments in Cadillacs rather than in contributions to the NAACP and Urban League.

Granted that the man who owns a Cadillac has his obligations to give—and give liberally—to race organizations that strive to better the good and welfare of the Negro, it is nevertheless also true that investment in a Cadillac has its points too as weapon in the war for racial equality. The fact is that basically a Cadillac is an instrument of aggression, a solid and substantial symbol for many a Negro that he is as good as any white man. To be able to buy the most expensive car made in America is as graphic a demonstration of that equality as can be found.

Buying The Best And Most Expensive

JUST as to white America, the Cadillac is a sign of wealth and standing so to Negro Americans the Cadillac is an indication of ability to compete successfully with whites, to maintain the very highest standard of living in this nation. It is more than just "keeping up with the Joneses," more than just a matter of caste and class. To a Negro indulgence in luxury is a vindication of his belief in his ability to match the best of white men. It is the acme of dignity and stature in the white man's world.

This luxury-living does not express itself in Cadillacs only. And strangely enough it is not limited to the upper class alone. No matter what their economic status, Negroes have made it a part of their behavior pattern always to buy the best and most expensive items they can afford. They have always gone in for brand names with established reputations, survey after survey has discovered.

Long ago they found out they could not live in the best neighborhoods or hotels, eat in the best restaurants, go to the best resorts because of racial discrimination. But in their own neighborhoods luxuries have never had any restriction.

There is nothing to stop them from being as good as the white man in appreciation of the better things of life. Faced with the frustration of Jim Crow, they naturally demonstrate their hostility by matching the best the white man has.

Uphill Fight For First Class Status

IT IS ironic that often this desire for the best and most expensive often meant being cheated by conniving merchants. But even at that there is a vindictive triumph in being able to pay whatever price is asked, to be able to buy and enjoy what Mrs. Astor does.

What is important is being able to put up that front that stamps one as a full, unfettered man rather than a second-class underling. It is part of the uphill fight for status.

Sometimes whites who work with Negroes in professions or on the job are at a loss to understand how they can afford to dress better and own a later-model car than themselves. The explanation often is that they can't, but Negroes will scrimp on many things to be able to buy the things in life which are most evident to their fellow men, the things by which people judge one's status in the world of today.

If they cannot go to Miami for winter vacations, they can furnish their homes in the best Town and Country Magazine style. If they cannot drink at plush white night clubs, they still are able to buy the best whiskey and drink at home. If they cannot join in fashion parades at exclusive women's clubs, they can demonstrate their ability to wear the most exclusive items from Saks Fifth Avenue and Harper's Bazaar at their own social affairs. And to these Negroes there is no greater insult of which a merchant can be guilty than to question their ability to buy a suit for $200, imported Scotch at $9 a bottle or a pair of $20 Florsheim shoes.

There are whites who point to this Cadillac complex of Negroes as proof of a childlike nature, a lack of good judgment, and a tendency to the bizarre and ostentatious. There are Negroes who decry extremes in free spending as dissipating the assets of the race. Some of both races see it as an Amos 'N' Andy trait.

But strangely enough when whites do the very same thing with their money, these folk are silent.

The Folks That Can't Afford Cadillacs

ACTUALLY the motives for both the white and Negro who buys a Cadillac are essentially identical with but one exception. Both consider it a sign of distinction, a symbol of standing but most white Cadillac owners are better able than Negroes to afford the price tag on the deluxe models. Too often the Negro with a Cadillac is really operating a car beyond his means.

That is where his hunger for pride and dignity sometimes throws his purse out of balance. Cadillacs are fine—but "in their place," to use a favorite expression of lily-white bigots. Certain it is that there are hundreds of Negroes well able to pay for luxuries of the Cadillac class and we certainly do not begrudge this privilege to them. But the little fellow who sinks his savings into an expensive car and fine clothes that he can ill afford is paying a mighty high price for racial pride.

At best, maintaining the Cadillac standard of living as a demonstration of racial equality is of fleeting value, of temporary moment to the fellow who has to pay the high price of being permanently in hock to the finance man. It is but a shallow even if gratifying technique of achieving equality to a man who really hasn't the income to support a Cadillac.

Certainly it is a case of misplaced values as cockeyed as a washwoman wearing diamonds at her daily task.

Symbol Of Negro's Aspirations

BUT to deny the pleasure of driving a Cadillac to Negro well-to-do because there are still other Negroes who live in slums and shotgun shacks is as ill-advised and illogical as demanding white millionaires voluntarily to surrender their wealthy estates and Park Avenue penthouses to the unemployed. The world never has and never will work that way, despite the idealism of utopians. To berate colored Cadillac owners for not spending their money instead on good race causes is to deny Negroes the right to reach for equality on every level of U. S. life.

As long as there are rich and poor people in this country, there will be rich and poor Negroes. And that means there will be Negroes with Cadillacs. It cannot but do every Negro's heart good to see one of their number driving the finest car, wearing the finest clothes, living in the finest home. It is a worthy symbol of his aspiration to be a genuinely first class American.

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Agents Wanted!—Liberal Commissions

date with a dish

By Freda DeKnig

Gail Horne Jones, daughter of popular movie star Lena, packs some chocolate surprises she's made for her mother's birthday. Gail likes dancing, acting, good shows, good books and admits a "secret love" for Montgomery Clift. She has no inhibitions about her mother's fame, likes to be cuddled by "Mama" just like all little girls her age.

VACATION COOKIES

They're easy recipes for girls who like to dabble

MOST GIRLS like to play the occasional role of cook during the last days of summer when vacation weeks get a little long, tedious and tiresome. There's a lot of excitement dabbling around with pots and pans for these irrepressible youngsters and no better treat that mother can give them than the freedom of her kitchen. Perhaps daughters are not as neat as their mothers but the pleasure they get out of creating food ideas will more than compensate for a bit of flour on the floor.

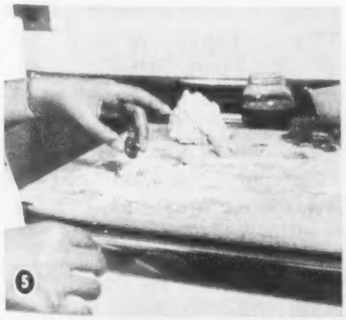
Cookies, of course, are an obvious recipe to experiment with—especially on the occasion of mother's birthday. Little 11-year-old Gail Horne Jones, daughter of glamorous screen star Lena Horne, tried the rolled oats recipe on this page when Lena's birthday came around. The chocolate-dipped surprises proved a real treat for Lena. Gail spends summers and Christmas vacations with her mother in their California home, attends the Horace Mann school in New York otherwise.

Organize ingredients before starting to work on mixing. Ingredients in this recipe make up to four dozen cookies.

Cream 1 cup butter or margarine and ½ cup confectioner's sugar until light and fluffy. Make certain to stir gradually.

Add 1 tsp. vanilla; sift together 2 cups flour and ½ tsp. salt. Blend into creamed mixture. Stir in 1 cup quick rolled oats.

Shape dough, which will be stiff, to make logs, balls or cones.



Place large nutmeat or cherry in center of some of cookies for variety. Roll in chopped nuts after chocolate covering.

Bake in ungreased baking sheet or pan at 325° for 25 to 30 minutes. Remove from oven and cool cookies while making chocolate.

Melt two 6 oz. packages of chocolate chips in top of double boiler. Add ¼ cup milk and mix with rotary egg beater.

Dip cooled cookies into chocolate with long fork. Place on rack to drain.

Al Capone headed syndicate that ran Grand Terrace in Chicago, where Earl Hines and other famous Negro musicians played.

Ralph Capone, Al's brother, employed Negro musicians in several of his night spots. Lucky Millinder worked in Cicero club which Ralph Capone ran.

Mitzi Capone, Al's youngest brother, worked as a guard on bootleg beer deliveries, was regular visitor to Grand Terrace and knew Hines quite well.

HOW GANGSTERS RAN

By Earl

EVERYWHERE I go these days folks in and out of the music world seem to have the same question. They're always asking me: "What's wrong with the band business?" Actually the answer is: nothing that good music can't cure. But if you're looking even deeper, then a good part of the blame for the doldrums, that has many top-rate Negro musicians toting bags in railroad stations from Broadway west to Central Avenue, belongs with the handful of booking agents who are strangling jazz with their monopoly hold.

It's been a good 15 years since the last of the Prohibition-era racketeers dropped out of the night club business but the smell lingers on. The smell is the booking agents, whose control of every choice hotel and night club date from coast to coast is a hangover from the days when gangsters muscled in on the entertainment world and used night clubs as a front for their rackets.

Earl "Fatha" Hines has been a successful jazz pianist for 25 years, today plays with the talented Louis Armstrong outfit. He saw the growth of jazz in its heyday of the 20's, experienced first hand gangster control of the band business.

I know because I indirectly worked for the mob—in fact the toughest mob of them all, the Capone gang.

I wasn't the only one. There's not a single big name of the show world—important folks like Lena Horne, Duke Ellington, Billy Eckstine, Cab Calloway, Louis Armstrong—who haven't at one time or another had contact with the syndicates. It all started in the roaring 20's when short skirts, bobbed hair and bootleg whiskey made night clubs an important phase of American life. As such they were not ignored by the gang syndicates who moved into night spots with musclemen and tommy guns and became indirect employers of the biggest Negro names in show business. At various times they ran the most popular Negro night clubs in the land—New York's Cotton Club and Chicago's Grand Terrace.

Now that the FBI has smashed the gangs and many of the top public enemies are dead, it is possible to tell the story of how these racketeers once practically ran the band business and how their successors still throttle jazz with their iron-handed, tight-fisted rule of all bookings.

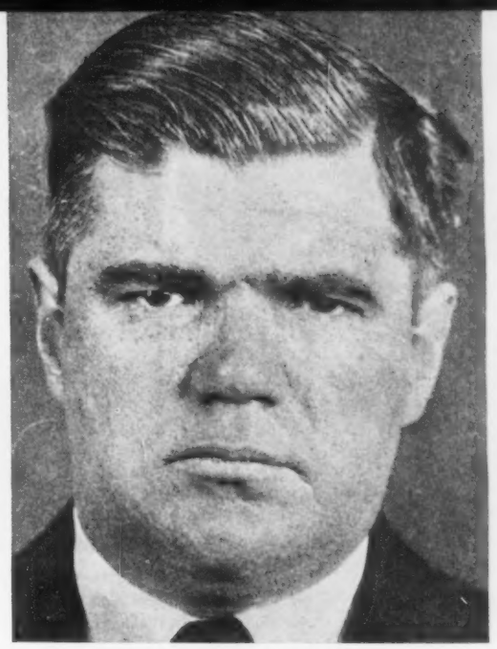
I only saw the story at the Grand Terrace but I heard about how the racketeers operated elsewhere by talking with other musicians.

I first got into the Chicago scene back in 1923 when I migrated from Pittsburgh as a young, ambitious piano player and landed solo jobs at the Elite and Entertainers clubs. This was the era when 35th Street and Calumet Avenue was the jazz center of America. Carroll Dickerson with Louis Armstrong as sideman held forth at the Sunset, while across the street trumpet king Joe Oliver was blasting hot notes.

Mobsters soon found their music a swell front for their back-room rackets that included everything from gambling to dope peddling and prostitution.

During those days I played with Louis who took over the band at the Sunset. I got a good slant of the Who's Who in rackets

Owney Madden was kingpin of gang that ran New York's Cotton Club. His crowd threw fabulous parties attended often by Cotton Club chorus girls.



George "Big Frenchy" DeMange was allied in syndicate that ran Cotton Club. He was most familiar face to Negro entertainers who worked at spot.

Jack "Legs" Diamond was mixed up in Cotton Club mob, once tipped Duke Ellington $2,000 for playing *St. Louis Blues.*

THE BAND BUSINESS

Hines

that ran the night spots but it wasn't until some years later that I got in on the ground floor. In December, 1928, I organized and led the first band to play the Grand Terrace, then located at Oakwood Boulevard and South Parkway.

Ed Fox was the manager and owner of the club. But everyone knew that the real big wheel was a sinister and powerful gangster who hung around the club constantly and was the contact man with Al Capone. Capone was the brains and money behind the Terrace mob. A Capone man was usually hovering around the cash register at the end of each morning's final show and it was generally assumed that he was there for the purpose of checking up on the night's take, counting it accurately and reporting to the syndicate.

The band was really popular with the gangsters that used to hang around. One of the Capones was regular visitor and we often cracked jokes together. I knew a lot of the Capone mob that hung around the club and called them by their first names. Our relations were always cordial and sometimes it paid to know these fellows.

For instance, there was the time I first hired Arthur Lee Simpkins to sing with the band. I ran across Simpkins in Augusta, Georgia, during one of our tours down South. He was working in a white bank and I invited him to come to Chicago after I heard him sing.

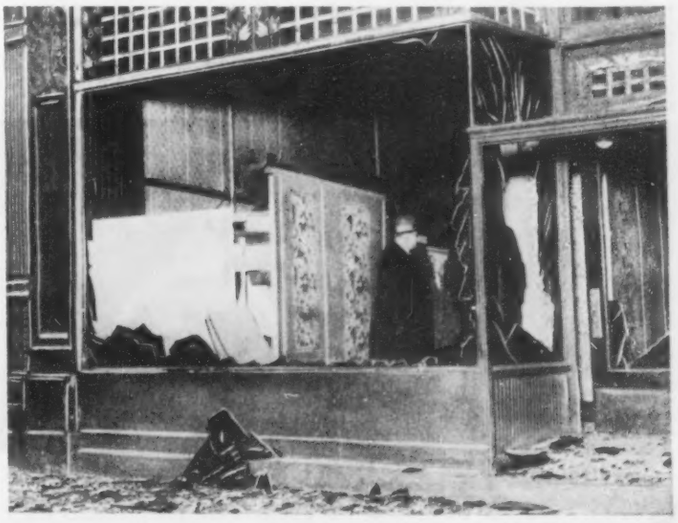
Into the Grand Terrace one night after our return stumbled Simpkins and asked for a chance with the band. He auditioned and got a contract. A short time later the Georgia banker for whom Simpkins had worked as a handyman came into the club and demanded that we return his "colored boy." I told the club owners that we stood to lose the popular tenor from our new show. They didn't like it. A few tough bouncers went into action and quietly ran the Georgia cracker back to his haunts.

There was another singer whom we had trouble with. We had come back from a tour and I found myself without a vocalist. I started out on a hunt. One of the spots I cased was the famed Club DeLisa.

There I heard a $35-a-week crooner doing some numbers and I liked what I heard. I later went backstage, talked to the young fellow who originally came from Pittsburgh and convinced him to join my band. He was a sensation and still is. His name—Billy Eckstine.

When we opened with Billy at the Grand Terrace a short while later, we got a call from some fellows who wanted Eckstine back at the DeLisa. They came armed with revolvers that plainly showed under their coats. But the Terrace's toughies had other ideas and after putting their cards on the table with the rival gang, Eckstine stayed.

A frequent visitor to the Grand Terrace in those days was the



Bombings were routine in era when gangsters ran leading night spots through syndicates. Once Capone mob even had hold on officers of AFL musicians union. Here is Chicago South Side cafe after explosion attributed to "trouble with union."

Continued on Next Page

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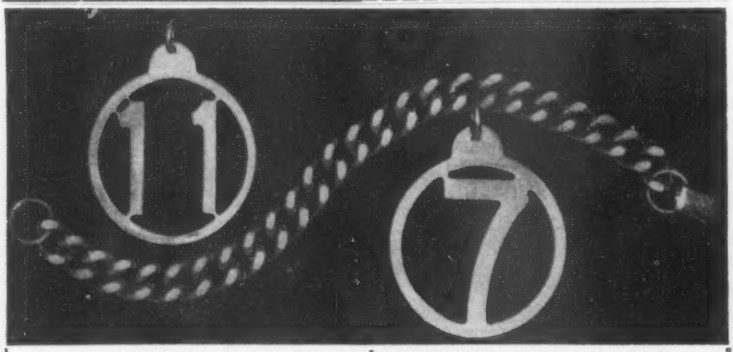

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Duke Ellington was hired by Cotton Club syndicate in 1927. Mob "persuaded" theater owner to drop option on him.

Cab Calloway once was threatened with violence by gangsters if he "didn't do right." He had objected to small pay.

GANGSTERS *Continued*

big man himself, Al Capone, who went around town in a seven-ton armored limousine. He liked to come into a club with his henchmen, order all the doors closed and have the band play his requests. He was free with $100 tips.

"Scarface" got along well with musicians. Only one I ever heard of who had a run-in with the Mr. Big of the syndicates was Mezz Mezzrow, who was working in a night spot in suburban Burnham. It seems Al's youngest brother, Mitzi, went for one of the good-looking entertainers with Mezz's outfit and Scarface ordered her fired. Mezz argued back while a half-dozen of Al's henchmen stood around laughing at the nerve of this musician arguing with Mr. Six-Shooter. Finally Al started laughing too and said: "The kid's got plenty of guts."

Another band leader who had considerable contact with the Capone group in those days was Lucky Millinder, who worked for Ralph Capone in a spot controlled by the syndicate in Cicero, headquarters of the Capone gang. Others who held jobs in Capone-controlled clubs were the late Tiny Parham and the late Jimmy Noone, one of the greatest of all jazz clarinetists.

Louis Armstrong once changed managers and was threatened with gangster violence. After that he hired two bodyguards who protected him on and off the job for many months.

Present-day Grand Terrace is far cry from "black and tan" heyday when club was front for Capone gang. Wallace party now has upstairs headquarters where Capone gang once ran roulette wheel, dice tables and card game.

Lena Horne's stepfather was beaten by Cotton Club mobsters when he asked to take Lena on road with Noble Sissle.

Billy Eckstine was subject of gangster battle of wits when Earl Hines signed him for Grand Terrace.

Despite the occasional big tips from customers, I wasn't making much in those days—only $150 a week. I didn't give much attention to financial matters. I was interested only in playing good music and left money matters up to the Terrace's manager, Ed Fox, who practically ran the business end of the band in Chicago and on the road.

As the Grand Terrace was the main institution in Chicago through which racketeers were able to influence the working destinies of Negro musicians, so the Cotton Club in New York was the prime example in the East of the powerful hold that the syndicates had over the main source of employment for scores of Negro entertainers.

The Cotton Club's biggest years were from 1928 to 1936. During this period it came under the control of one of the biggest and wealthiest gangs in New York history.

Nominal boss of the swank Cotton Club was Herman Starks, a sleek, shrewd veteran in the nitery business. He employed the best Negro talent of that era and staged the most lavish floor shows in night club history.

But the real operators of the Cotton Club, anyone who ever worked there will tell you, were a clique of tough, well-heeled mobsters. It was an open secret that the chief investor in the

Ed Fox was the manager of Grand Terrace back in days when Capone syndicate held financial reins.

Late Jimmy Noone worked in Chicago South Side club controlled by the Capone syndicate.

Continued on Next Page

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GANGSTERS *Continued*

Cotton Club was the fabulous and feared Owney Madden, who was once the kingpin of midtown Broadway. Madden was known to be associated with the late "Dutch" Schultz in both the beer business and the numbers racket. His income was stupendous and he was regularly seen in the Cotton Club in which he had a big investment.

Lena Horne tells the story of Madden and some of his henchmen once coming into the club and sizing up some of the beautiful showgirls. Several took a fancy to Lena who then was but a 16-year-old girl still going to continuation school. When they sounded out some of the club flunkies, they were warned to stay away from Lena because of her youth. "She's jail bait," they were told.

Later on when Lena got a chance to go with the Noble Sissle band as a singer, the hoodlums who ran the club behind the scenes objected to her departure. Her mother thought that maybe they would listen to reason and sent Lena's step-father to talk to some of them. They gave him a sound thrashing and wound up by sticking his head in a toilet bowl.

Allied with Madden in indirect ownership of the Cotton Club was George "Frenchy" DeMange, another colorful character in the Manhattan underworld that had its tentacles running into the City Hall via an alliance with Tammany politicians. Both Madden and "Frenchy" were seen often at the Cotton Club surrounded by beautiful, high-powered women. They spent on a fabulous scale and tipped in a grand manner. "Frenchy" was a regular partner in card games with Duke Ellington. He was personally known to practically all the big name Negro entertainers who ever worked at the club—people like Cab Calloway, Ethel Waters, Bill Robinson and all the world-famed beauties in the chorus.

Actually "Frenchy" was feared far and wide in the underworld. His most notorious exploit was the kidnapping of Vincent Coll, another mobster who was ransomed for a reported $35,000. Like many gangsters who lived hectically in the shadow of death during their lifetime, "Frenchy" died in bed of a heart attack in 1939. Madden, after serving a term in Sing Sing, was ordered out of New York City by the Police Department and finally took up residence in Hot Springs. He is there now living in luxury.

Madden's contact with Negro entertainers was not only limited to the Cotton Club. He also tried to muscle in on the noted Billy

Continued on Page 46

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Pierce, who ran an exclusive dancing school on West 46th Street for such stars as Fred Astaire, Libby Holman, Clifton Webb and Betty Compton, Mayor Jimmy Walker's girl friend. Thugs repeatedly ordered him to close up unless he cut them in.

Cab Calloway was once threatened with violence by the gangsters "if he didn't do right." This happened early in the 30's when Cab was appearing at the Cotton Club. He was booked into the Paramount Theater for a three-weeks engagement at a salary of $200 a week. Cab balked at doubling at a downtown theater for so little money and said he couldn't do it.

He was warned: "You'd better go into the Paramount on those terms or we'll see to it you'll never work again!" It is recorded that Cab went to work at the Paramount at the appointed time for the originally-stipulated salary.

Duke Ellington tells the story of the time he was playing at the Cotton Club when a fellow danced up to the stand and requested *St. Louis Blues*. "I can't dance unless I can sing the words to my girl," he explained, "and those are my favorite words." He asked for the number about fifteen times and finally Duke played it. At the end of the evening he came up again and said: "How about once more?" Duke played it again and after he finished the fellow came up and casually said: "Thanks. I really appreciate that. Here, boy, buy yourself a cigar." Duke looked at what he gave him. It was a $1,000 bill.

"I don't know where I can buy a cigar that expensive," said Duke.

"That's okay," the fellow replied. "It's worth another."

And he gave him another "G-note."

The fellow was one of New York's most notorious gangsters—Legs Diamond.

Flush with money and powerful from coast to coast, the syndicate had good taste and stopped at nothing to get the best in entertainment. When they first signed to get Duke Ellington into the club, he was blocked from coming immediately by a contract he had with a Philadelphia theater. They straightened that out in a hurry. A Philly mobster went to see the theater owner, explained the situation briefly and then summed up: "Be big, be big or you'll be dead." The theater man was big and Duke opened at the Cotton Club as scheduled.

Booking Racketeers Move In

THE END of Prohibition wrote the coming doom of gangster control of night clubs because profits from rum-running faded and clubs proved too expensive as a front.

But when the Prohibition-era thugs passed from the scene, another kind of racketeer moved in. I got my first whiff of how they worked when I owned my own band and wanted to place a Negro manager, Charlie Carpenter, in the office of my New York booking agency. But the agent advised against such a move. "He wouldn't know how to get along with promoters," was the argument.

I refused to listen and went ahead with my original plans. The thing worked out well when we hit the South. My experience with a Negro manager proved fine and later other colored bands followed suit. They proved that Negroes can run their own business in music as well as elsewhere. Too long have others profited from the drawing power of colored bands.

When my band returned from that trip to the South, I ran smack into trouble with the syndicates again—a different kind of syndicate. My bookings had been dropping lately and I started to look into the situation and I learned that my refusal to buckle under to the booking monopoly had them on the warpath. They were pushing top names like Count Basie and Duke Ellington in dates where promoters would try to book me. It wasn't the fault of the band leaders. It was just a case of them being tied up by contracts and their booking agents trying to use them to control me and my organization.

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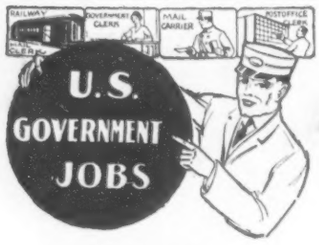

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Now with Louis Armstrong combo. Hines earns $500 weekly compared to low $150 weekly when he had band at Grand Terrace. Noted booking agent Joe Glaser now owns Grand Terrace club in Chicago, rents it for small night club operation.

GANGSTERS *Continued*

They approached Billy Eckstine with the idea of forming a new band that would outdraw me. They went to Sarah Vaughan, Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker and Gerald Valentine, all members of my band then, with the same idea. I got hot and charged into the agency's Chicago office. But I never could get to see the boss because every day they were changing command so that no one really knew who the top man was.

Band Popularity Polls Are Phony

SOMETHING new that started blossoming in the business then was band popularity polls. I had started slipping in these polls. One reason was because of loyalty to a certain booking agency which advised me to renew my contract with a big recording firm during the dispute with the musicians union which lasted two years. With no records of mine coming out and sales constantly falling, my bookings decreased.

At first the business of the band polls didn't bother me but later when I noticed that some entertainers were winning the polls with unbelievable regularity I decided to investigate. I didn't have to look long.

One day in Chicago a fellow called me, said he represented one of the big jazz magazines and told me he could fix up a first place for me in the poll if I slipped him $500. I told him to go jump in Lake Michigan.

If I can't win strictly on merit, I wouldn't want the prize.

Today I can take a grand and fix up almost any rating I need. Most of the contest-winning polls are nothing but a racket—small time stuff compared to the days of Capone and Madden, but a racket nevertheless.

As a band leader I have picked up as high as $4,000 a week and my bands have earned at least $2,500,000 in six years. I am proud that I was able to give starts to many big names in the music business today. But it gripes me to see these young up-and-coming youngsters still depending for their future on racketeers, just as I was when I came from Pittsburgh to Chicago back in the 20's.

Too often I have seen talented, ambitious youngsters fall prey to the whims of the syndicates—the kind that operates with tommy guns and those who operate with trick clauses in fine print in contracts.

Tired of dealing with syndicates, I gave up as a band leader in 1948 and joined Louis Armstrong's all-star combo. I am not running away, just retreating to get needed strength to fight the syndicates once again and place jazz back into the hand of musicians who deserve to get the fruit of the business.

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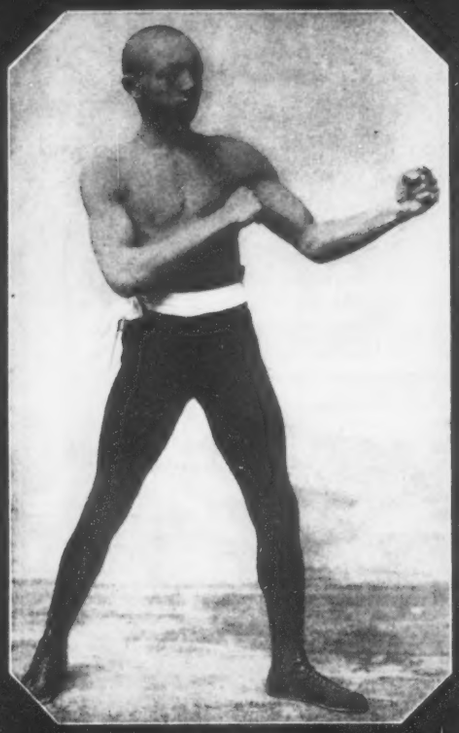
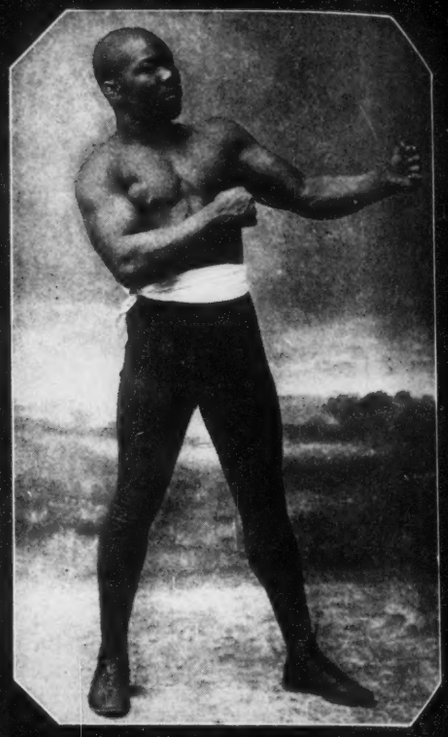
GALLERY OF NEGRO B



GEORGE DIXON
BANTAMWEIGHT AND
FEATHERWEIGHT CHAMP 1890-1899

JOE GANS
LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMP 1901-1908



JOE WOLCOTT
WELTERWEIGHT CHAMP 1901-1906

PANAMA AL BROWN
BANTAMWEIGHT CHAMP 1932-1935

YOUNG JACK THOMPSON
WELTERWEIGHT CHAMP 1930-1931

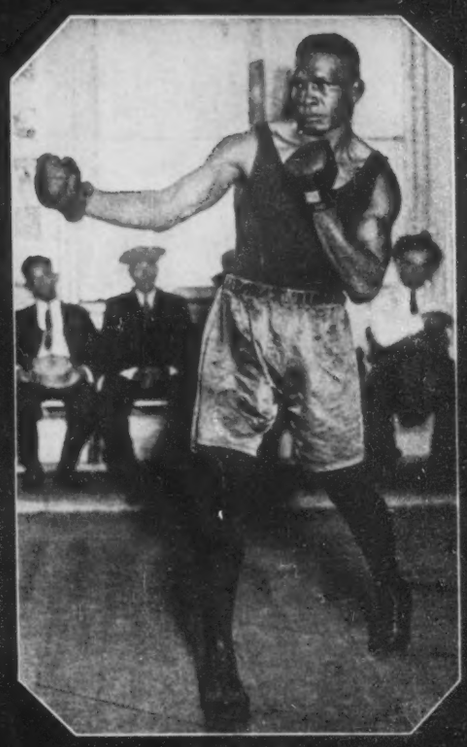
WHEN Ezzard Charles defeated Jersey Joe Walcott in June to take the much-coveted world's heavyweight title, he became the 20th Negro to hold a boxing championship since the Marquis of Queensbury rules were drafted in 1865. Winning titles in every division except flyweight (now strictly a European class), Negro battlers have notched a permanent place in boxing history since 1890 when 20-year-old George Dixon garnered both the feather and bantam

KID CHOCOLATE
FEATHERWEIGHT CHAMP 1932-1934

RO BOXING CHAMPIONS

JACK JOHNSON
HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMP 1910-1915

BATTLING SIKI
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMP 1922-1923



TIGER FLOWERS
MIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMP 1926

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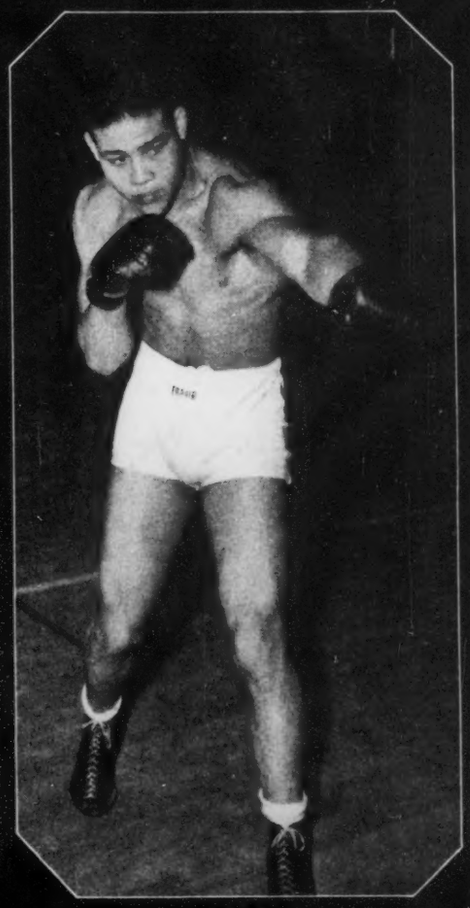
crowns to become the first officially-recognized Negro champion.

Today Negroes are a sizeable segment of the 10,000 professional boxers in the U. S. and dominate the game all out of proportion to their numbers. Three of the seven world's titles are held by Negroes. With more and more colored youths following the path of universally-acclaimed Joe Louis, it is not inconceivable that one day every world's champion will be a Negro.

JOHN HENRY LEWIS
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMP 1935-1938



JOE LOUIS
HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMP 1937-1949

HENRY ARMSTRONG
FEATHERWEIGHT, LIGHTWEIGHT AND WELTERWEIGHT CHAMP 1937-1940

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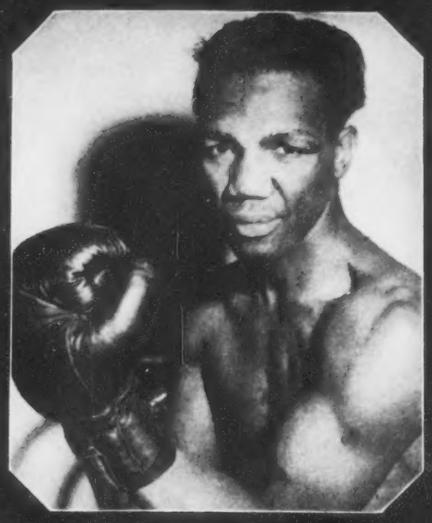
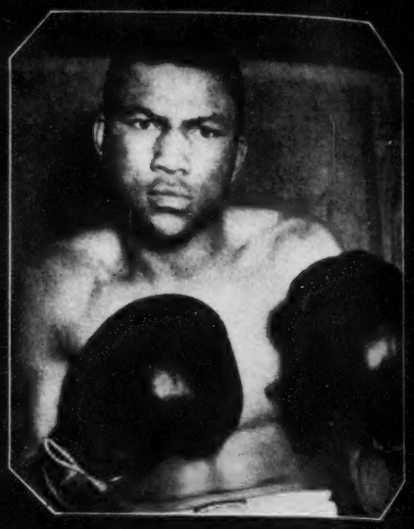


CHALKY WRIGHT
FEATHERWEIGHT CHAMP 1941-1942

BEAU JACK
LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMP 1942-1944

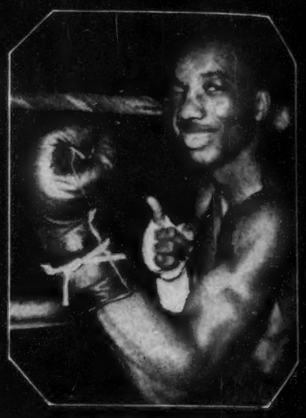


BOB MONTGOMERY
LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMP 1943-1947

IKE WILLIAMS
LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMP 1947-

RAY ROBINSON
WELTERWEIGHT CHAMP 1946-

HAROLD DADE
BANTAMWEIGHT CHAMP 1947



SANDY SADDLER
FEATHERWEIGHT CHAMP 1948-1949

Negroes Held Titles for Total of Seventy Years

AMONG the 185 world's champions since John L. Sullivan's time, a total of 24 titles have been held by 20 Negro champs. Actually the record is more impressive since Negroes wore boxing crowns more than 70 years out of the 475 active and combined years of fighting in eight boxing divisions.

Great names in the sports world are the following:

GEORGE DIXON. First Negro champ, Little Chocolate was also the youngest (20). When 19, he fought a memorable 70-round bout with two-ounce gloves to draw with Cal McCarthy. The Halifax youth made his ring debut weighing less than 100 pounds. He won the bantam title in 1890 from Nunc Wallace in London, two years later took feather crown by kayoing Jack Skelly in New Orleans. He fought 34 title bouts. Along with Joe Louis and Henry Armstrong, he rates as champion who defended title most. He lost crown to Terry McGovern in 1899, died in 1909.

JOE WALCOTT. The Barbados Demon, who came to the U. S. as a cabin boy in 1887 at the age of 15, was one of the most amazing boxers of all time. Although a welterweight, he fought and beat heavyweights. He won the welter title in 1901 from Rube Ferns, lost it five years later to Honey Mellody. He was last seen around New York in 1944.

JOE GANS. Called by many the greatest lightweight of all time, the fabulous boxer took the title from Frank Erne in 1902. The first U. S.-born Negro champ lost to Battling Nelson in 1908, died two years later of tuberculosis at the age of 36.

JACK JOHNSON. First Negro heavy champ, the much-abused but really-remarkable boxer was 31 when he kayoed Jim Jeffries in 1910 to take the title. He lost his crown in a much-disputed fight against Jess Willard in Havana in 1915.

TIGER FLOWERS. The Georgia Deacon was the first to get a chance at a championship fight in the U. S. following the Jack Johnson era. By beating Harry Greb in 1926, he became the only Negro ever to hold the middleweight title. Mickey Walker took the title from Flowers in a much-disputed decision six months after Greb fight. Flowers died the next year.

JOE LOUIS. Youngest fighter ever to win the heavy title (23), he finally put Negro boxers back into the good graces of sports fans. Holding the title for 11 years, he defended his crown against all comers.

HENRY ARMSTRONG. Only boxer ever to hold three titles at once, the windmill-fashioned "Hammering Hank" has been tabbed by many as "the greatest boxer pound-for-pound" in the game's annals.

EZZARD CHARLES
HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION 1949-

Continued on Next Page

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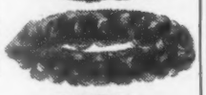

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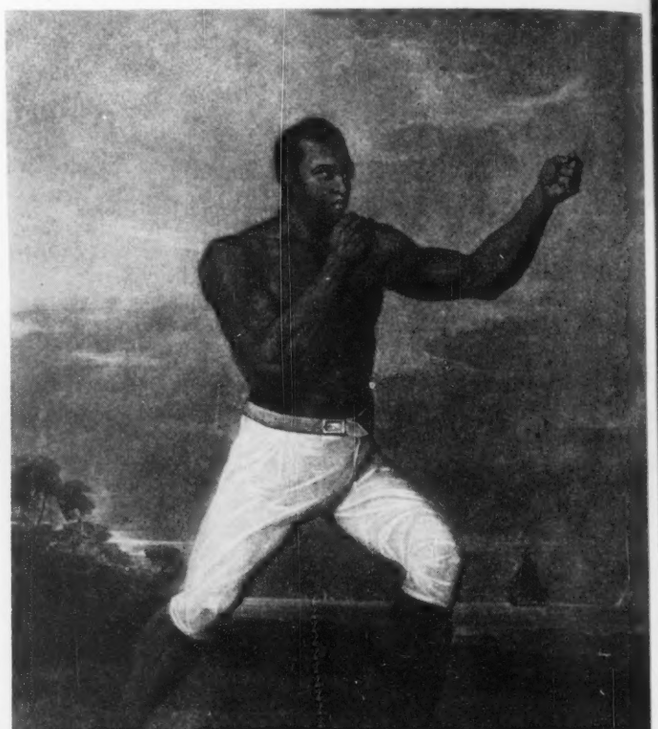
Some Great Old Timers Cheated of Titles

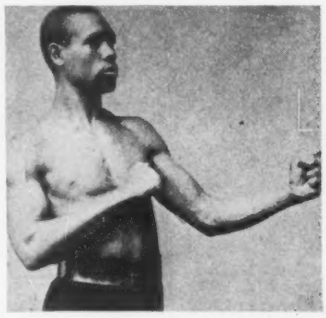
EVER SINCE the first Negro boxers learned the art of pugilism from the sons of rich Southerners back from England, virtual capitol for the sport in those days, they have been chasing championships in the ring. But they have had to beat two opponents most of the time—their foe with gloves and racial prejudice. The first "unofficial champ," ex-slave Tom Molineaux, proved the master of heavyweight titleholder Tom Cribb in 1810 in England for 30 rounds. But the "Yankee nigger," as Britons called Molineaux, was deprived of the championship by foul tactics that involved connivance with the referee.

Some 75 years later a boxer, whom many experts call "the greatest fighter that ever lived," challenged for the heavyweight championship. He was West Indies-born Peter Jackson, of whom the noted John L. Sullivan once said: "I wouldn't step into the ring with that colored man." Heavy champ Bob Fitzsimmons called Jackson the greatest fighter he had ever seen. Jackson, who turned down all bouts below the Mason and Dixon line, fought only four times in America, and then returned to Australia where he first won fame.

Another boxer, whom many rate as one of the top pugilists of all time, was Sam Langford who fought heavyweights (including Jack Johnson who he floored) when he was a middleweight. The now-blind Langford who lives in Harlem claims to have fought 400 times, losing only once to Harry Wills. The latter spent most of his ring career trying vainly to get a bout with Jack Dempsey, who drew the color line.



Tom Molineaux was first "unofficial" champion among Negro fighters. Ex-slave beat all U. S. heavyweights by 1809 and went to England to meet world champion Tom Cribb. He kayoed Cribb in 23rd round but Briton won by fluke.



Peter Jackson won Australian heavyweight title, came to U. S. in 1888 but found top heavies shying away from him.

Sam Langford never held a title but old-timers claim he could have beaten champs from lightweight to heavy.

Janet Collins is caught by stroboscopic camera in three movements from spiritual-in-dance. She once danced with Katharine Dunham, is now hailed as more finished and versatile artist than her teacher.

JANET COLLINS

She is hailed by top N. Y. critics as most exciting dance discovery in last decade

MOST IMPRESSIVE new talent to enrich the art of the dance in America is Janet Collins, a little elfin brown woman whose incredible artistry and breath-taking poetic movements magnetize audiences wherever she performs. Although she has been dancing a good many years now, two sensational performances in New York last Winter immediately propelled her into the top circle of the nation's greatest dancers.

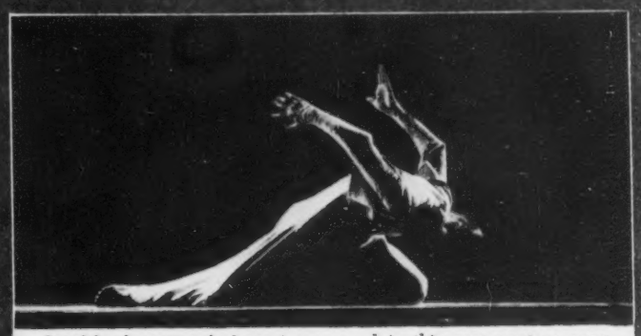
No other Negro dancer, not excluding Katharine Dunham, has been acclaimed with such fervor by dance reviewers and the highly critical audiences of the East. Her New York debut was the kind of triumph young dancers dream of but rarely achieve. The critics exhausted superlatives in describing her vitality on the stage, intelligence, compassion and irresistible humor. Hyper-sophisticated audiences cheered her hoarsely and called frenziedly for encores.

With few reservations, the entire dance world has taken the petite, New Orleans-born dancer to its heart and showered her with the kind of praise reserved for those touched with genius.

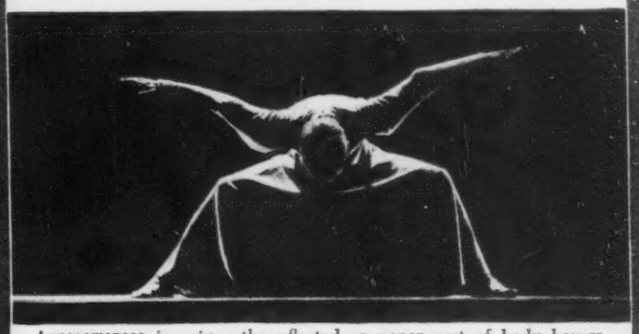
One critic described her technique as "hair-raising." Another rhapsodized: "Pure, unimpeded, uncluttered, un-neurotic dancing in the joyous sense of the word . . . and with consistent good taste." The New York Times' John Martin, dean of U. S. dance critics, called her "the most exciting young dancer who has flashed across the current scene in a long time. . . ."

Miss Collins stands out for her ability to communicate instantly the feeling inherent in her dance creations. The remarkable stroboscopic photographs on this page depict the chief movements used by Miss Collins in her gripping portrayal of the Negro spiritual, *Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen.*

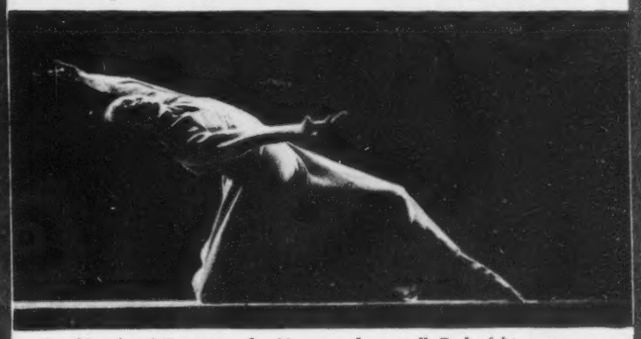
NOBODY KNOWS THE TROUBLE I'VE SEEN



Anguish of oppressed slaves is expressed in this movement as arms reach upward and head is dropped to the earth. For rendition of *Nobody Knows* she wears a blue-grey, bell-shaped jersey gown.



Lonesomeness is poignantly reflected as upper part of body hovers over base of figure. Miss Collins uses wide stance with knees bent. Head drops as if weighted by some heavy burden to express inner pain.



Reaching for deliverance, the Negro seeks to tell God of his agony on earth. Dancer descends on right knee, her body reaching rightward with arm stretched out in supplication.

Sorrows and agonies of people are portrayed in bending position with arms in beseeching gesture.

Climactic moment comes with emotional release as arms and body search for deliverance.

Continued on Next Page

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Colorfully costumed, Janet Collins leaps high with foot outstretched towards her drummer, Theodore Benedict, during performance of "Juba," based on African dance material and inspired by W. C. Handy song.

SHE PLANS CONCERT TOUR THIS SEASON

JANET COLLINS is a highly schooled artist. Unlike most of the current crop of young dancers in America, her technical development includes years of rigorous ballet training. Thoroughly grounded in classical technique, she performs with equal ease and authority in the modern dance idiom. Such versatility is rarely encountered today.

Miss Collins thus cannot accurately be described as a "Negro dancer." Her ballet preparation has equipped her to perform any classical ballet with any of the nation's top troupes.

She uses racial material for some of her dances, but her repertoire is much broader. It includes spirituals, classic-style ballet and Hebraic dances. Her interest in Hebrew dance forms dates from researches made during a Julius Rosenwald fellowship project in 1945, and from close association with the eminent composer, Ernest Bloch, who is writing the music for a *Biblical Suite* which she will introduce to dance audiences this Fall during a national concert tour.

Currently Miss Collins is studying choreography with the famous Doris Humphries and working on new additions to her repertoire. Following her triumphant New York debut last February when she dominated a program of performances by relatively unknown young dancers, she was booked for a recital at the Young Men's Hebrew Association on upper Lexington Avenue where she scored the electrifying success that has made her name a byword among modern dancers. Since then she has received many offers to perform. These, she sifted carefully and decided on a country-wide tour using a new, enlarged program.

High point of a typical Collins dance program is her striking interpretation of spirituals, unique for their power and emotional content. People have been moved to actual tears by her stirring performance of *Nobody Knows The Trouble I've Seen.*

Projected with passion and full of sensitive movement, *Nobody Knows* is an unforgettable dance experience.

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William "Gooseneck" McDonald, 82, has been married for 12 years to the attractive former Mae Pearl Holly of Fort Worth, his fifth wife who is only 32. Multimillionaire banker, reputedly richest Negro in world, has had policy of brides no older than 20.

Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, 71-year-old dean of tap dancers, is married to 28-year-old ex-chorine Elaine Sue Dash. Bill eats lots of ice cream and wife complains: "He's got me doing it too but I can't dance it off."

DO 'MAY AND DECEMBER' MARRIAGES WORK?

Weddings of Negro oldsters to young brides ofttimes manage to survive for years

IN AMERICA'S scandal-tainted society set, choicest gossip frequently bubbles from the hush-hush "May and December" marriages of its elderly "sugar daddies" to glamorous, pink-cheeked young "gold diggers." Seldom, however, do such youth and age romances survive long after the honeymoon. Consistently they wind up on matrimonial rocks amid stormy court battles. Though Negro society, too, has its share of "May and December" couples, in contrast many have managed to make their marriages survive for years.

Most fabulous among the graying bridegrooms with youthful brides is 82-year-old William "Gooseneck Bill" McDonald, Texas banker and investor who parlayed politics, shrewd business acumen, and a $575-a-month private secretary's job into a fabulous fortune that has made him the world's richest Negro. Married five times since his first trip to the altar in 1888, the white-haired multimillionaire once insisted that chief qualifications for his brides be that they must be "twenty or under." His longest matrimonial stint was for nearly 30 years to Texas-born Helen Ezell, daughter of a wealthy land baron and mother of his only child. No fussy eccentric about either his age or his pretty young brides, the famously wealthy octogenarian usually has a ready answer for the inquisitive. A close friend once remarked: "Bill, why don't you quit marrying these little young girls! All they want is your money." The quick retort was: "By George, they can sure get it!" In characteristic fashion he fixed a standard price of $3,000 for fur coats he lavished on his wives, and occasionally gave one a building from among his 75 pieces of property in Texas. When they no longer found his wealth attractive, he reportedly gave each a $10,000 chunk of his fortune and their freedom.

Today, in failing health for almost two years, he lives in semi-retirement with his 32-year-old wife of 12 years, the former Mae Pearl Holly of Fort Worth, who formerly worked in his bank and whose father now operates the Texas institution.

No rarity among Hollywood stage and screen celebrities, "May and December" unions are frequently the marital pattern rather than the exception in the entertainment world. An outstanding example is world famed 71-year-old tap dancer Bill "Bojangles" Robinson who refers to himself as "a sort of Rip Van Winkle of dancing" and who embarked on his second matrimonial venture in 1943 with his marriage to the excitingly attractive Elaine Sue Dash, a chorus girl he met while starring in *Hot Mikado.*

First married in 1922 to the former Fannie S. Clay, a Chicago drug store clerk, the venerable dean of tap dancers at one time earned as high as $3,500 weekly and jokingly told friends he spent over $1,000 for sodas while winking at his bride-to-be over the counter. After 21 years their marriage ended in divorce court in 1943 and reportedly cost him in excess of $80,000.

Still a puzzle to lovelorn advisors and divorce court judges, romantic attractions of age and youth are seldom encouraged. A Chicago judge in recently granting a pretty young wife a divorce and a substantial chunk of her elderly husband's fortune made this significant comment:

"He lives in the past, she lives in the future. She chews gum while he smokes his pipe. She can dance all night, but nature drives him in with the swallows. Unless he be her father there is in the very nature of the situation little about an old man to excite the interest of a young woman, and unless he is in the market for a good nurse there is no basis for an old man to become enamored of a young woman."

Continued on Next Page

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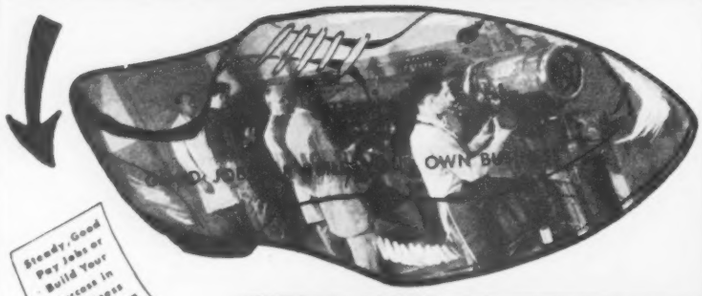

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Tourgee Dubose, 60-year-old music director at Southern University, married Tella Marie Cole, 24, of Louisville three years ago. Her father, I. Willis Cole, publisher of Louisville Leader, for while refused to allow new son-in-law to visit home.

Walter Dixon, over 50, dean for nearly 10 years at Cortez Peters business school in Baltimore, has wife 20 years his junior. She is Chinkie Pierce Dixon, native of Petersburg, Va., who was a Baltimore social worker before marriage.

Roger Simkins, 65, owner of Washington's Brass Rail night club, wed 32-year-old wife Yvonne three years ago. Couple now has two children. She formerly worked as teller at the Industrial Bank of Washington.

Loyall Randolph, wealthy 50-year-old Baltimore hotel operator, has wife half his age—former New York show girl Nicki O'Daniel, 25. Daughter Bonnie is not yet two. Randolph is high in Elks. She formerly did specialty with Maurice Rocco.

A. Clayton Powell, Sr., retired 85-year-old pastor of New York's Abyssinian Baptist Church, met Harlem Hospital nurse Inez Cotterell five years ago, married 44-year-old matron short time later. Marriage is second venture for both.

Dr. P. O. Sweeney, 56, has been married for three years to Susa Mae Cunningham, 32-year-old ex-school teacher. Couple had baby girl in June. Prominent Louisville dentist has daughter, 29, by first wife. He owns extensive realty holdings.

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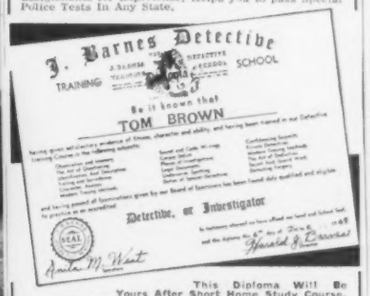

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Dr. Joseph Dyer, 61-year-old Washington ear specialist, is married to girl whom he delivered into world. Couple has six-month-old daughter, Lois Frances. Doctor has 30-year-old son by former marriage who is older than present wife.

Dr. J. A. C. Lattimore, 73, celebrated 21st wedding anniversary this year with wife Naomi, 42. Louisville physician and former president of National Medical Association was married for second time to wife, a librarian.

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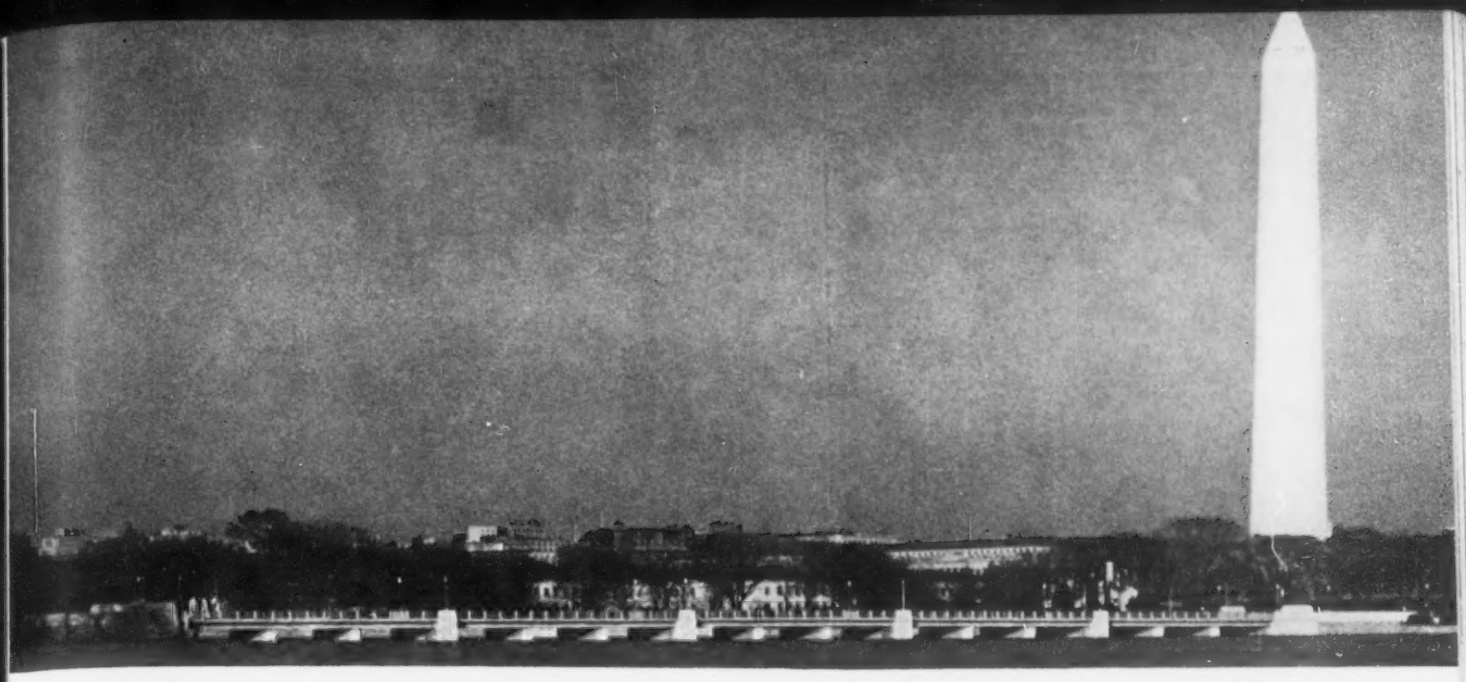


Beautiful Tidal Basin bridge, $800,000 capital landmark near famed Washington Monument, is one of 200 construction projects valued at more than $25,000,000 built by Iowa interracial contracting team of Alexander and Repass. Friendship begun on football field in college culminated in partnership of two engineers 20 years ago.

BRIDGE-BUILDING TEAM

Contracting firm of Alexander and Repass is nation's most successful interracial business

BUILDING bridges, rather than castles, was the constant dream 35 years ago of two young friends, star football players at the University of Iowa. Some years after graduation from the school of engineering, they combined their talents and small resources to form another team and began to build together.

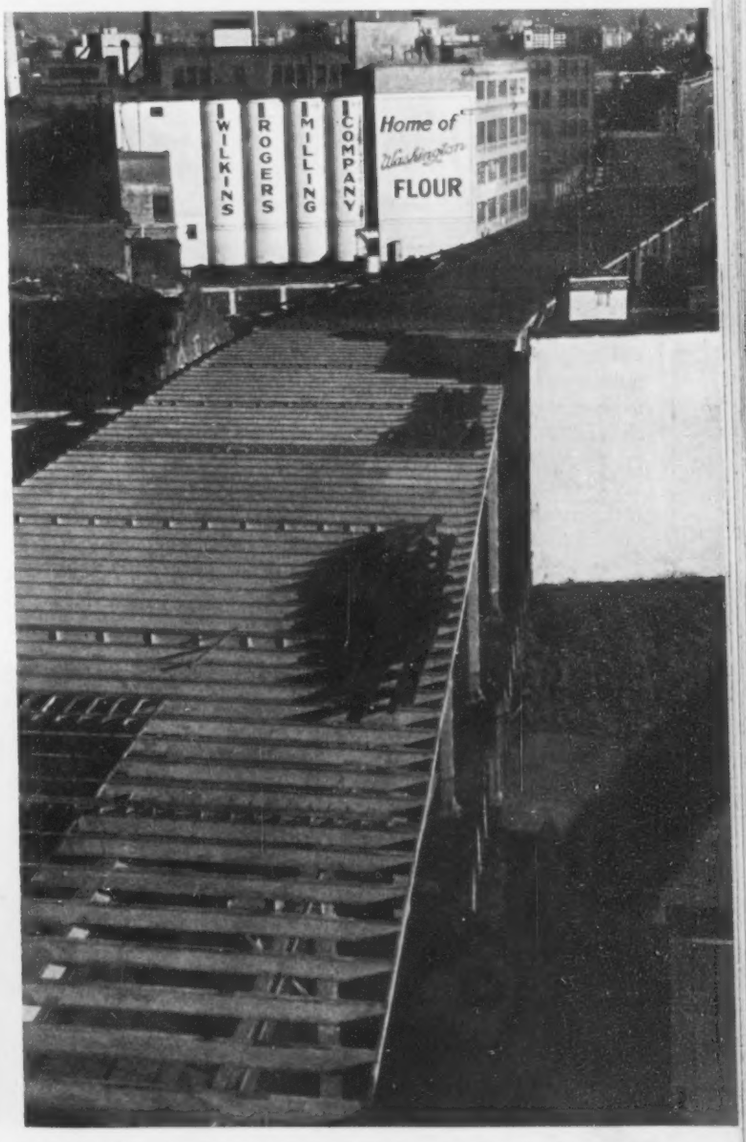
Today Alexander and Repass is one of the nation's outstanding contracting firms and the most successful interracial business partnership in the country. These Iowa masters of the concrete, who specialize in hazardous feats of engineering (with more profits and less competition), have built underground and overhead structures in nearly all the 48 states.

But their greatest achievement, greater even than their latest triumph, the gigantic $3,500,000 District of Columbia Whitehurst Freeway, is the bridge of friendship they have built over the chasm that separates the white race of Maurice Repass from the Negro race of Archie Alexander.

Their experiment in democracy has paid them well. Their contracts have run into millions of dollars for jobs ranging from their bridges to sewage disposal plants, from power houses to the Tuskegee air field.

"I have met with no adverse criticism," says junior partner Repass, "but have been commended many times for my choice of partners."

Senior partner Archie Alexander, 61, has offices in both Washington and Des Moines. His secretary Ilene Dahltorp has worked for him in both offices for past 13 years. She says her white friends "had better not say anything about my working for a Negro."



Biggest job done by firm is Washington's $3,500,000 Whitehurst Freeway, largest highway of its kind in country. Designed to relieve D. C. traffic, mile-long, four-lane structure took crew of 200 workmen two years to complete.

Continued on Next Page

Partners Maurice Repass and Archie Alexander personally supervise work on D. C. freeway. New York bonding company refused to back job because it was "too big" but Seattle firm took over, farmed out contract to three Dixie companies.

Favorite pastime of Alexander is occasional game of billiards with friend Perry Howard, Mississippi Republican leader, at Mu-So-Lit Club in Washington, of which engineer is president. Travel is other relaxation. He has toured in 24 countries.

ALEXANDER WON'T LET COLOR HANDICAP HIM IN GETTING JOBS

EVER SINCE the dean of the engineering school said he had never heard of a Negro engineer and tried to discourage the big, good-looking youth with the determined blue-grey eyes, the construction world has become quite conscious of a brown builder with the strength and courage of a John Henry and the name of Archie Alexander.

Fourteen years after graduation, the only man in his class who could not be placed in a job was back at his Iowa alma mater, building a million-dollar heating plant. When the university celebrated its 100th anniversary, Alexander was selected as the outstanding graduate of the class of 1912, and the wife of the dean who had questioned his becoming an engineer was proudly calling him "my boy."

The Ottumwa-born son of a coachman, who played at building dams in the creek behind his home while a boy, soon found there were others who had never heard of a Negro engineer. After being turned away from every firm in Des Moines, Alexander took a 25-cent-an-hour laborer's job in a steel shop. When he left to go into business for himself two years later, he was making $70 a week as an engineer.

When school chum Repass quit a University of Iowa teaching post to join him in a partnership, Alexander was already established. During his entire 35 years of contracting, the Des Moines man has chalked up an enviable record of some 300 major projects.

The work divides itself naturally between the partners. Repass is the inside man, checking contracts and handling mechanical detail. Still playing tackle as he did for Iowa's football teams, aggressive Alexander goes out after the bids, finds his color little handicap.

"Some of them act as though they want to bar me," he chuckles, "but I walk in, throw my cards down and I'm in. My money talks just as loudly as theirs."

Using the same blitz methods, together with his commanding personality and imposing appearance, Alexander stays in white hotels all over the country. When faced with Washington union rules which specify separate facilities for Negroes, Alexander instituted individual paper drinking cups and replaced the "colored" and "white" toilet signs with "unskilled" and "skilled."

Oldest employee, white master mechanic Otto Johnson, with firm since 1918, has charge of $300,000 equipment.

Payday on huge Whitehurst Freeway involves $14,000 weekly payroll. Because of AFL union policy (firm hires through union), all Negroes on job except five are laborers. Alexander is only Negro in Association of General Contractors.

Chief Engineer Clifford V. Smith, 48, also Iowa graduate and ex-U.S. engineer, is highest skilled Negro employe.

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ARTISTS BALL

Weird costume affair at N. Y.'s plush Waldorf brings out characters of 'fantasy and fable'

Green butterfly Gerry Scholl perches atop a table at the Waldorf-Astoria Ballroom to display shimmering pair of wings and green-tinted body to league student William Smith and Samuel B. Croom, head of Sepia Arts Studio, Harlem photo agency.

NEW YORK's top costume ball is the gay and gorgeous affair sponsored each year by the old but far-from-crusty Art Students League. It is one of the outstanding events of the Spring, but its patrons are drawn not from Park Avenue drawing rooms or the Social Register, but mainly from the city's outstanding artists and art students.

League balls are noted for their shenanigans as well as for their rich variety of exotic costumes, mostly original creations of the art students themselves. This year's ball was a turbulent extravaganza in technicolor which jampacked the Grand Ballroom of the famous Waldorf-Astoria Hotel with over 1,500 pleasure-bent participants who had transformed themselves into an appalling collection of devils, hobgoblins, mythical characters, legendary figures and beasts of prey.

The Art Students League, with some 4,000 members, is never content to hold an ordinary costume dance. It imparts a unique twist to each of its presentations.

The 1949 League Ball was luridly billed as "Fantasy and Fable." Guests were alerted to dress up to resemble characters from mythology and the legendary past. These ranged from Satan himself to Paul Bunyan, John Henry and the Princess Scheherazade. There were also mermaids, ogres, leprechauns, ghouls, vampires, imps, spectres, spooks, satyrs, werewolves, giants, gremlins, trolls, sirens and zombies.

Two-faced woman Annette Woodburn, an art student, is object of fascinated admiration by two ASL members, Stuart Anderson and Wade Jefferson. One student hoped to go to ball nude as Lady Godiva but Waldorf turned thumbs down.

Spirited dance exhibition was given by Robert Johnson, one of ASL's most popular models. He was costumed in black tights, a billowing white satin blouse, beaded slippers and multi-colored waistband. Circle of spectators gathered around him.

Haiti was represented at ball by Luce Turner, first woman to get Rockefeller Foundation art fellowship. She is seated on lap of Stewart Klonis, ASL director.

Pirate Jimmie Martin, a league student, was pilfering photos of friends all evening. Of 100 models at school, more than 25 are Negroes.

Apache and gay 90's costumes were worn by John Rhoden, first prize winner in Columbia U. sculpture show, and commercial model Mary Fotos.

Arabian dancing girl's costume is worn by model Melba Valle, enjoying tete-a-tete with artist John Rhoden. Models at the league classes on West 57th Street average $50 weekly, some more. League was founded in 1891, is open to all races.

Chorines Anna and Georgina Arencibia, two sisters from Cuba, are sparsely-clad at the Waldorf. The Art Students League has no entrance requirement and issues no diplomas. It appeals to both beginners as well as accomplished artists.

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Thorough examination rigidly screens prospective wet nurses before they can become donors. Periodic checkups during the donation period also insures highest quality of breast milk. This mother has given milk twice.

Scrubbing-up technique is important phase of milk bank routine. Mothers are taught to wash breast three times with cotton and green soap, must also scrub each finger, hand and arm with solution. They dry off on towel handled with special tongs.

MILK BANK

Nursing mothers help save infant lives by selling breast milk at 10 cents an ounce

ONCE HARASSED by alarmingly high mortality rates among premature babies, U. S. health departments have revived a proxy version of the old-fashioned wet-nursing practice in a nationwide save-a-baby drive. Prompted by medical insistence that there is no satisfactory substitute for mother's milk, a total of 17 cities have set up milk banks. These "lactariums" provide nourishment for tots whose mothers have an inadequate supply of breast milk. Donors are milk-prolific women who feed not only their own infants but have enough left over to provide for others. Last year they produced nearly 20,000 quarts, helping to give newly-born "preems" two to ten times greater chance of survival.

In many of the milk banks, Negro women are the biggest contributors. In Chicago last year more than half of the 212 donors were colored mothers, averaging 28 to 30 ounces daily and in some instances as much as 40 to 50 ounces. At the usual rate of 10 cents an ounce, the mothers seldom receive less than $10 weekly and some get as high as $35.

The amount of milk a mother may produce varies as does the length of time she may be a donor. Mrs. Elsie Carter (shown on these pages) earned more than $900 in 1946 with a production of nearly 300 quarts over a 12-month period.

Most municipal health departments offer the precious breast fluid for sale at prices ranging from 10 to 35 cents an ounce. Chicago, however, which once provided breast milk for the famous Dionne quintuplets, furnishes the baby food without cost.

Sterile cup catches milk. Mothers rarely spend more than two hours at milk bank station. Special gown and face piece help keep germs at minimum.

Collecting milk in germ-free bottle helps mother keep tab on amount "expressed." Ice-filled container chills bottle until full and ready for temporary storage.

Half-quart of milk must be consumed by donor after "expressing" routine. This is to insure continued quality of her milk. Milk as well as carfare is given free.

Pickup service at Chicago's three milk stations insures speedy delivery daily to central milk bank. All milk is pooled at pasteurizer and bottles are only identified by donor's number. Full bottles are checked in by field nurse.

Pasteurized milk is finally placed in eight-ounce bottles and stored in deep freezer until ready for use. None of the milk is segregated and will later be distributed to white and Negro babies alike without cost. Date labels are attached to bottles.

Calling for milk is only required obligation for parent of baby in need of breast milk. Milk must be called for daily and only in unusual instances will it be delivered. Provided free in Chicago, mother's milk once sold as high as $15 a quart.

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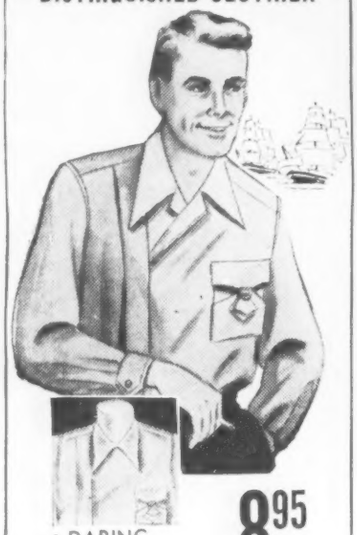

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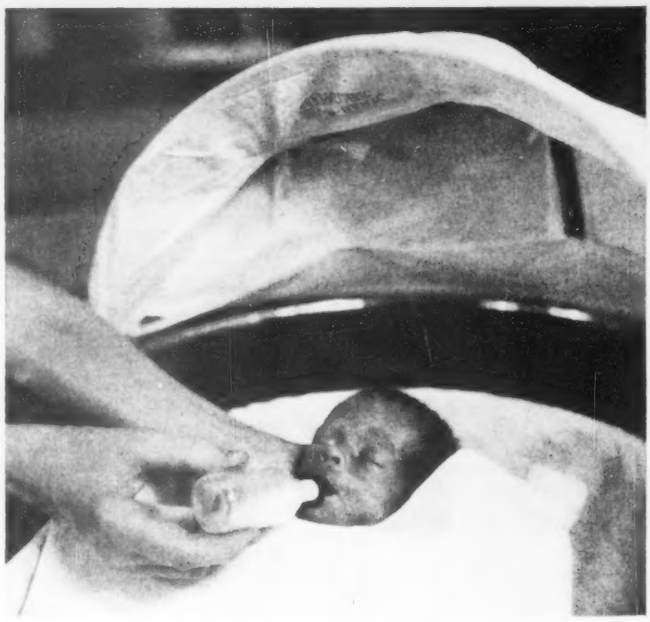

Premature baby getting regular breast feeding by proxy is one of the many thousands of infants benefiting from mothers' milk reserved for them. Tiny tot weighed only 2 lbs., 11 ozs. at birth will thrive on milk for six months.

FROZEN BREAST MILK CAN BE KEPT AS LONG AS TWO YEARS

NO NEW DISCOVERY to medical science, proxy use of breast milk as a life saver for premature and sick babies has been employed for nearly half a century. As early as 1907 a Brookline, Massachusetts, health officer was sending into homes of nursing mothers to collect surplus breast feedings for ailing infants. By 1910 Boston had set up its first milk station complete with a directory of wet nurses for emergency calls. Biggest boom in the projects, however, came in the early thirties when it was discovered that properly frozen breast milk would keep for as long as two years.

Now established on a modern, systematized basis, few of the larger cities are without milk station facilities. Kansas City has been operating one since 1929, Chicago since 1931, and New York since 1925. Annual production among the 18 bureaus currently in operation has topped 600,000 ounces with Chicago alone producing 72,032 ounces in 1948.

Just how many undernourished infants are cared for each year through the milk stations is not known. But an idea of the widespread need is seen in Chicago where 1,089 sick babies were furnished absentee breast feedings last year. Operating on a yearly budget of $15,000, the city paid $7,203 to the 212 donors, besides furnishing them daily carfare, a quart of milk, and an occasional baby sitter.

Most of the milk stations were established to take care of home needs but frequently other cities great distances away are supplied from breast milk stockpiles. On one occasion a supply was flown from Boston to Omaha and in another instance a quantity was sent by air from Boston to Indianapolis.

All milk is pooled together, none segregated. It is distributed to white and colored babies alike.

In recent years many city bureaus have had to draw on their reserve stocks of frozen milk because of a shortage of donors as well as increasing needs. One expert attributes the shortage to increased prosperity with fewer mothers needing the extra cash, indifference of some doctors to the virtues of mother's milk (some hospitals discourage breast feeding since it means more work for the staff) and modern notions of motherhood which sometimes imply that breast feeding is old-fashioned, even vulgar and distorts a woman's figure.

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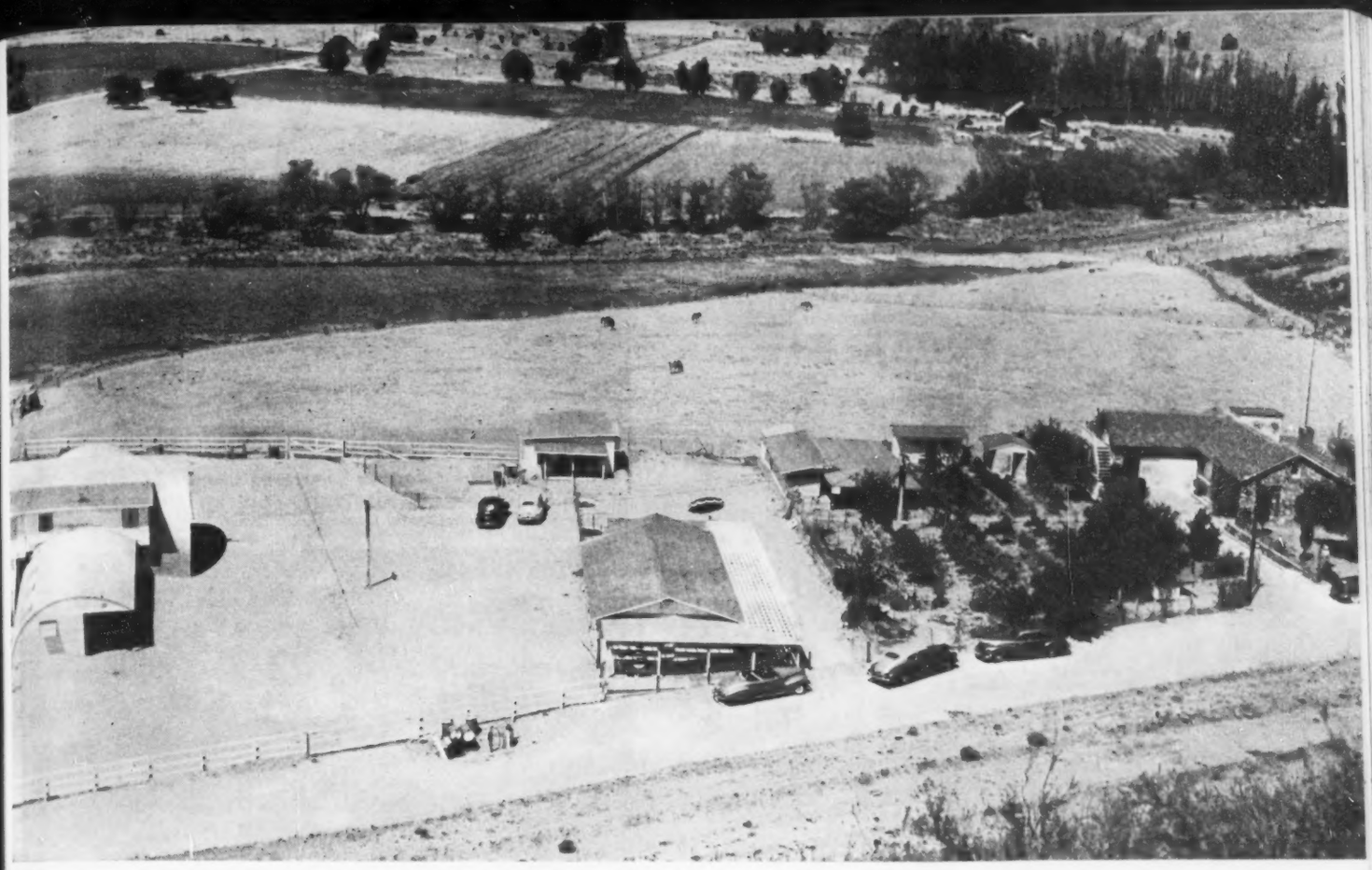

Thirty rolling acres of ranchland are scene of fabulous weekend parties thrown by Los Angeles Dr. N. Curtis King. Guests at recent party were movie actresses Louise Franklin and Louise Beavers (below), cavorting on haystack in barn. At ranch Dr. King raises prize show horses and own livestock, has newly-built swimming pool.

RANCHES

Many celebrities flock to King ranch, best of dozen run by Negroes

FOR MORE than 150 years ranches have been an integral part of the California scene. The first migrants to the land of sunshine, the Spanish *rancheros* from Mexico, lived in self-sustaining adobe brick ranch houses surrounded by vast pasture lands for their cattle herds. Today some of the newest migrants to California are carrying on the ranch tradition. At least a dozen prosperous Negroes who have taken up residence in the state in recent years now have expansive and expensive ranches.

Perhaps the most lush rolling acres are found at the King Ranch near Lake Elsinore. Owned and operated by Dr. N. Curtis King, Los Angeles surgeon and head of the Rose-Netta Private Hospital, the $125,000 layout is a West Coast showpiece that attracts celebrities from all over the nation. Dr. King, who has poured his time and money into the place, commuting from Los Angeles three times a week to work on the grounds, claims it is "the finest in the country."

"I'll match my ranch against any in the country and come out on top," the Meharry graduate says proudly. Facilities at the ranch include a large guest house sleeping 50, in addition to two main houses. A constant party thrower, Dr. King is host to notables almost every weekend. EBONY went to a King Ranch party that cost King $1,000. The pictures on these pages show how King treats his guests in style.

Continued on Next Page

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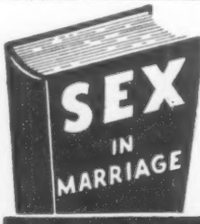
Barbecued pig is displayed by noted artist Aaron Douglas and Los Angeles attorney Loren Miller. Killed and smoked for barbecue at party were a cow and two pigs. Guests also consumed four gallons of whiskey, seven cases of beer.



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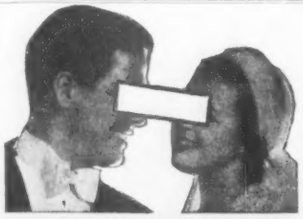

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Eggs for own breakfast are selected by L. M. Blodgett, Liberty Loan Association president. Total of 180 laying hens are kept in individual coops. Most of ranch help is white. Out of 150 applicants for ranch jobs, only two were Negroes.

CITRUS TREES, PRIZE CHICKENS

LAKE ELSINORE, which has become the outstanding Negro resort area on the West Coast, is the site of several ranches owned by Negroes. Dr. King's is the largest but outstanding spots are also run by movie actor Clarence Muse and Lawrence Criner, former star of the Lafayette Players. Earl Dancer, manager and husband of Ethel Waters during her heyday, lives with his mother in a large homestead near Elsinore.

The composer of *Dark Town Strutters Ball* and *Some Of These Days*, Shelton Brooks, owns Rancho Shellena in Fontana, 40 miles from Los Angeles. Named for Shelton and his wife Lena, the ranch is a ten-room, Spanish-style guest house with red tile roof and white stucco walls. On their two acres the Brooks raise orange, peach, lemon, plum and grapefruit trees. Dr. W. D. Boldin has a ranch near Fontana with swimming pool and horses.

Television broadcast is watched by ranch owner Dr. King and guests including movie stars Frederick O'Neal and Nina Mae McKinney of cast of *Pinky*. Most of time of guests at ranch is spent outdoors in sun which approaches desert intensity.

Two stallions are given cooling drink in prank by movie actress Frances Williams. Horseback riding is main sport at ranch which has seven prize Palominos. Hunting is also popular and trophy room is full of stuffed game and mounted heads.

Big Caterpillar tractor used to grade and terrace ranch is given run by actresses Louise Franklin and Artie Young. Both appeared in summer production of *Carmen Jones* on West Coast. Last movie for both was soon-to-be-released *On The Town*.

RAISED ON EXPANSIVE RANCHES

At Monrovia composer and musician Les Hite, veteran of 65 movie bit parts, has a 1½ acre ranch where he raises rare Brahma chickens with which he has won show prizes. His place is a rambling, country-style affair with citrus trees, fenced-in roses and grape arbors. Hite has a bar in one of his chicken houses which he calls the "Chicken Coop." Cecil Carter also has a small ranch near Monrovia.

One of the biggest Negro-owned ranches is owned by Rev. George L. Hays of the Church of Calvary in Los Angeles. The minister has 160-acre desert oasis near Old Woman Springs, which is six hours from Los Angeles by car. He has a four-room house with a sunken well on the land and uses the ranch twice monthly as retreat for himself.

But of all the ranches, Dr. King's is the most lavish and most visited. The Los Angeles surgeon has integrated his place into the life of community, occasionally lending it for meetings.

Continued on Next Page

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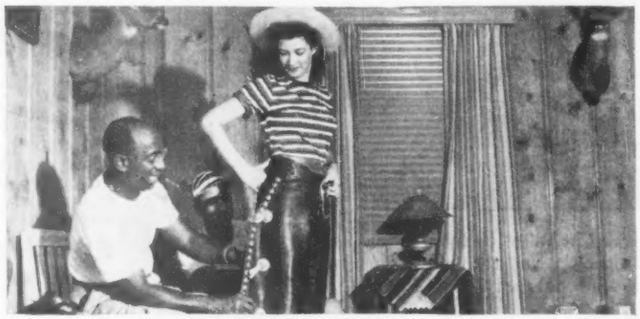
Smoked meat for party is inspected in freezer by Dr. King. Meat lockers have temperature of six below zero.

Juke box is hoisted by block and tackle into big barn where more than 100 couples danced until early morning.



Silver-mounted chaps are adjusted on guest Enola Lisberg by Dr. King and Larry Wilson before she rides off on horseback in foothills of San Berdu mountains. Bridle and saddle on some of prize-winning Palominos are valued at $1800.

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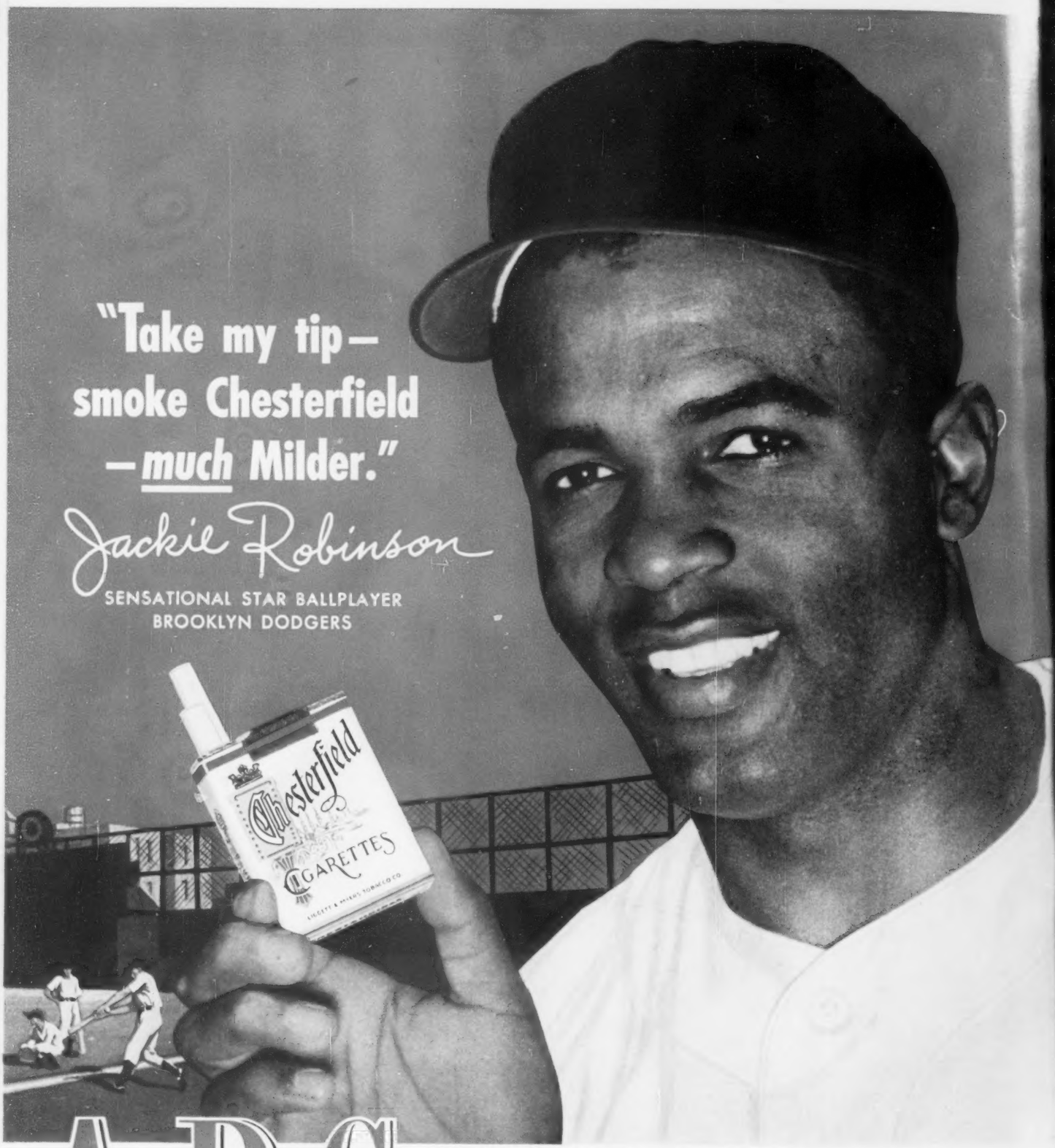

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